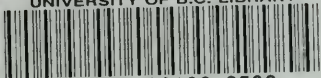


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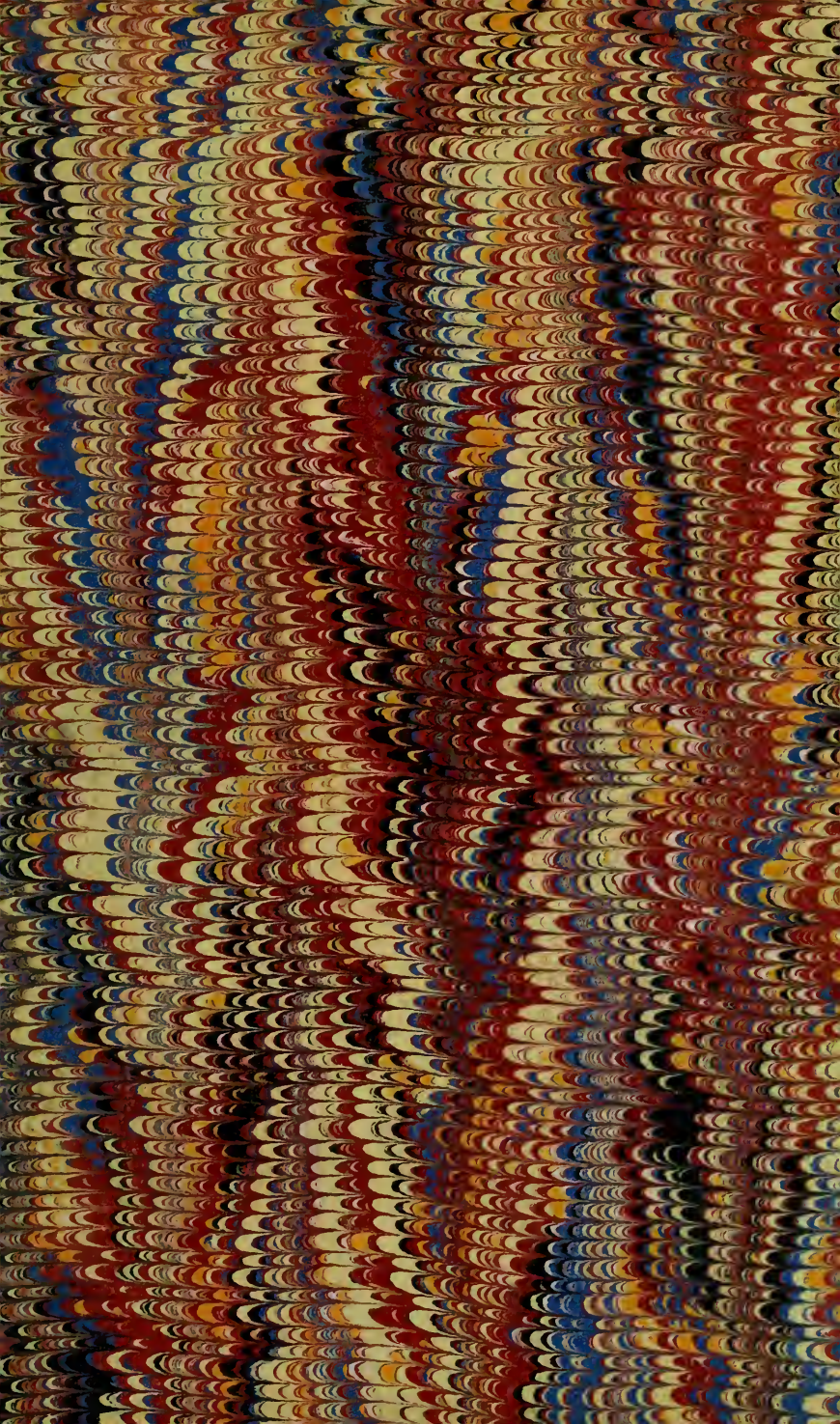
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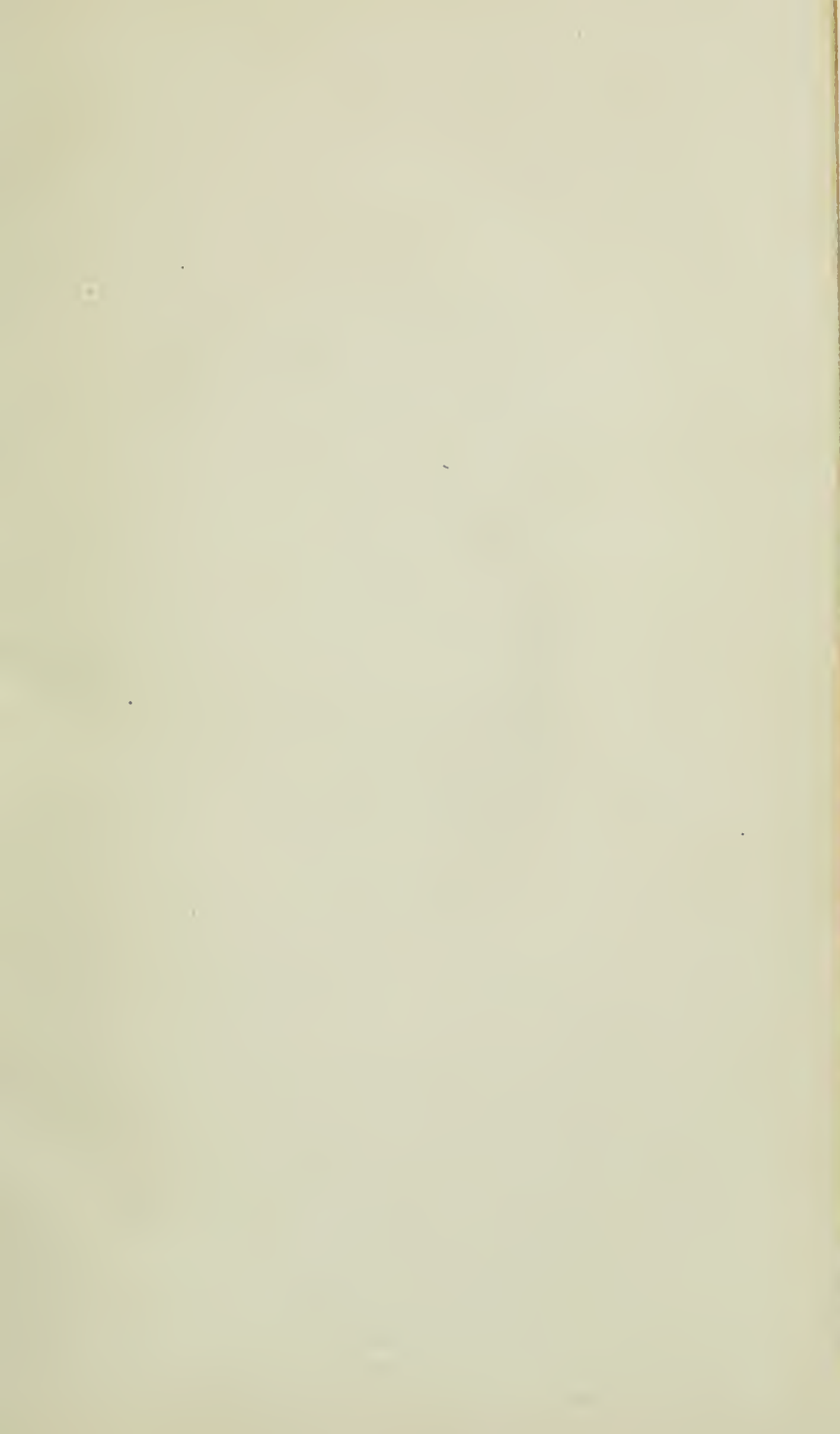
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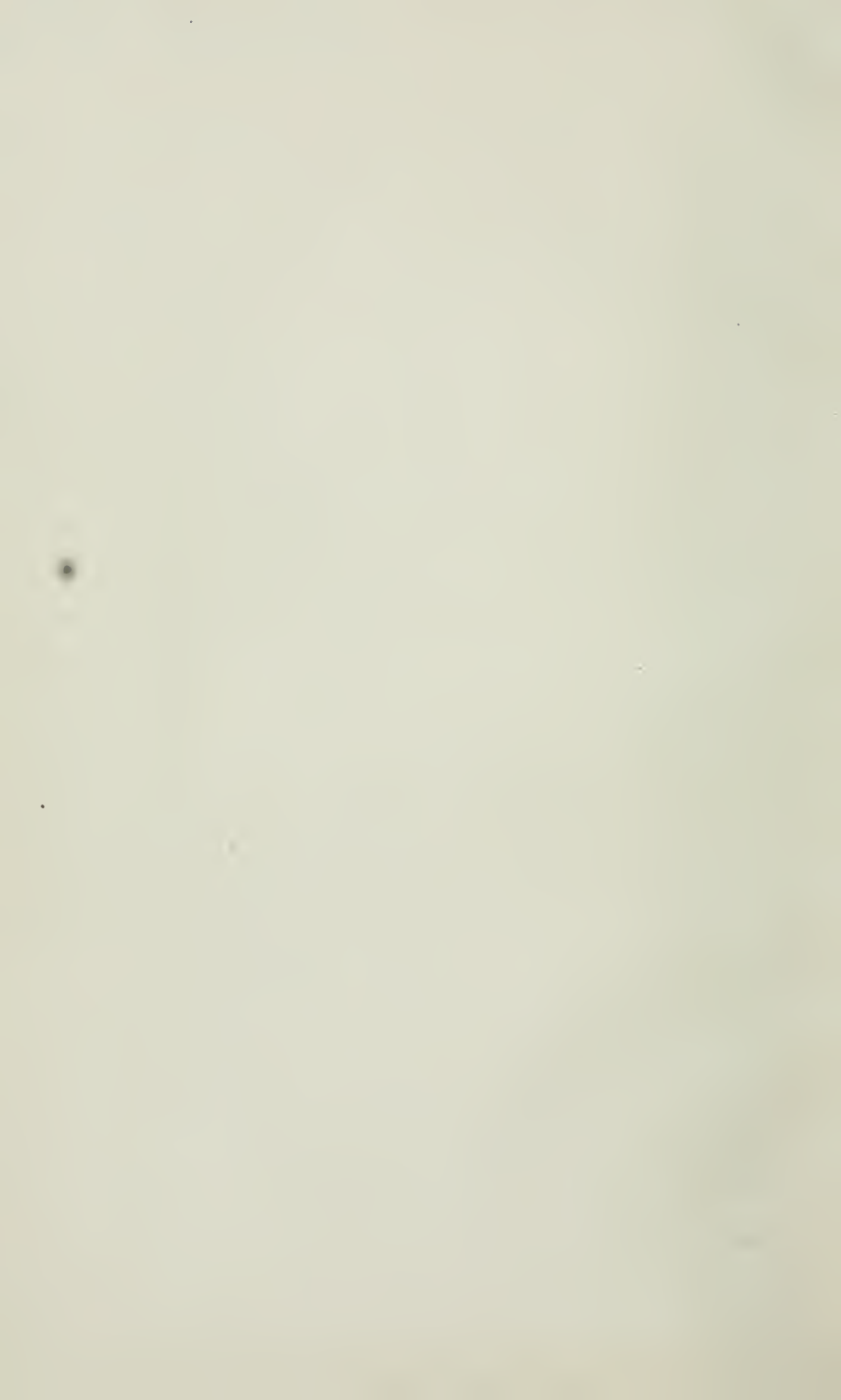


Mat. Surtree

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REMINISCENCES OF

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A MEMENTO OF

THE FESTIVITIES

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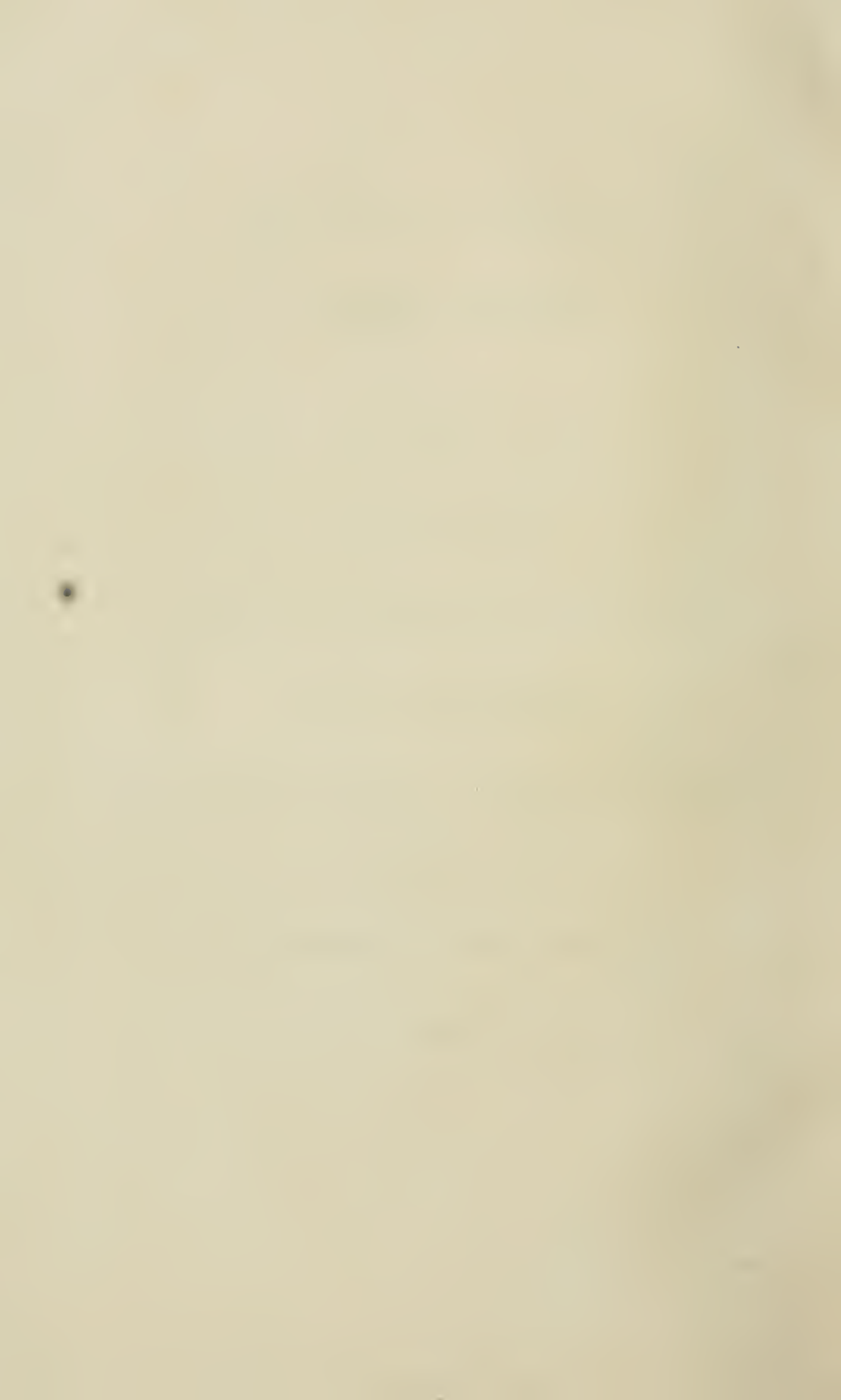
CELEBRATION OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE BIRTHDAY OF

LEONARD JAQUES,

SEPTEMBER, 1860.







View of Houns, with Richmond East

J. May B. R. Richmond

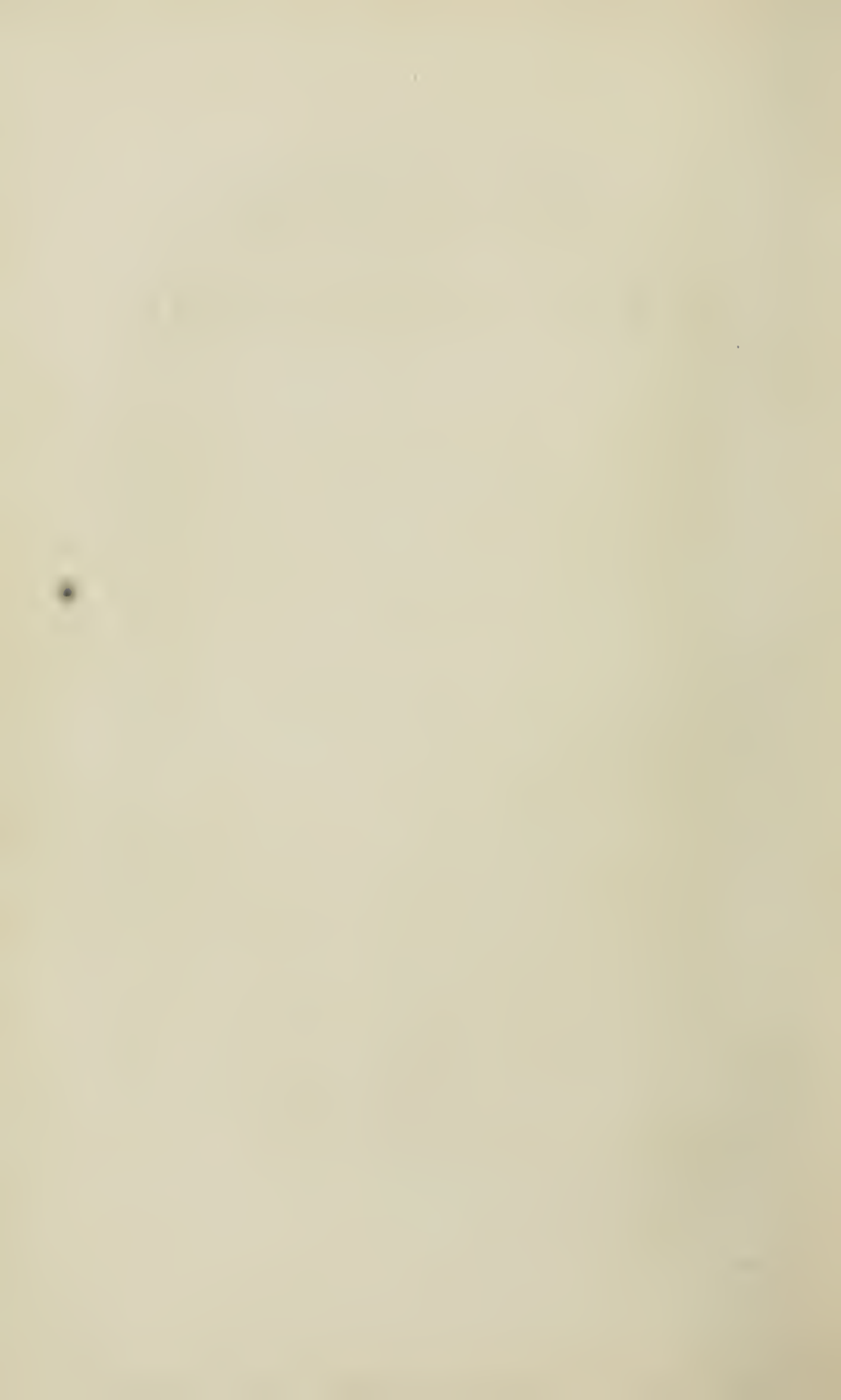
THE EASBY ABBEY
BREEDING STUD.

REPRINTED FROM "BELL'S LIFE."

WITH A MEMOIR OF MR. JAQUES, REPRINTED FROM THE "BRITISH FARMER'S MAGAZINE," AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENTATION OF HIS PORTRAIT TO HIM BY THE "RICHMONDSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION." EXTRACTED FROM THE "YORKSHIRE GAZETTE."

RICHMOND:
PRINTED BY JOHN BELL, FINKLE STREET.

1860.



THE EASBY ABBEY BREEDING STUD.

ASSOCIATED as Yorkshire is with the deeds of the most noted "running horses" of the past and present age, to say nothing of its antiquarian renown, no district is more justly entitled to be recognised as "classic ground" by racing men than that historically known as RICHMONDSHIRE, in the North-Riding of that extensive county, famed for its ancient aristocracy, great wealth, unbounded hospitality, honest yeomen, and good husbandry,—with its "wolds" and broad acres. The month of January is not exactly the season of the year for enjoying the magnificent scenery, and inspecting the many ancient ruins with which Richmondshire abounds; nor would Londoners, perhaps, admit the comparison of *their* Richmond on the Thames with the ancient town in the north; yet Yorkshire is enjoyable either in spring or autumn, summer or winter; and if compelled to make a selection between the "two Richmonds in the field," with all due regard for the reputation (and charges) of those well-known places of resort, The Star and Garter and The Castle, and the magnificent panoramic prospect to be met with at the favourite Cockney retreat, we unhesitatingly "plump" in favour of its less

fashionable but far more ancient namesake in the north, so proudly situated amongst the romantic scenery of the Swale, which realises the *beau ideal* of the poet's imagination of "rock, wood, and water!"

The approach to Richmond by the railway, past the ruins of Easby Abbey—popularly so called, but historically the Abbey of St. Agatha—along the banks of the river Swale, beneath precipitous wooded rocks, is most picturesque—enchancing in summer, when the trees are in full foliage—thereby impressing the stranger at once with the beauty of the situation, which, in fact, has become almost proverbial. Crossing the Gothic bridge, and mounting the steep approach to the town, with the noble pinnacled Keep, the last stronghold of the besieged, springing to the height of 100 feet out of the ivy-clad mouldering remains of the ancient Castle, so boldly situated on its lofty rocky eminence, washed by the river at its base,—and the stately tower of the Friary (recalling the style of the Somersetshire churches), which alone remains of the residence of a body of Grey Friars of the Franciscan order, founded, as early as 1258, by Ralph Fitz Randal, according to some, although the Scropes, according to others, had a share in the honour, —rearing their lofty pinnacles proudly above, the visitors admiration, coupled with astonishment, is increased ten-fold; and a desire is naturally aroused to explore the natural beauties of the place—to learn something of its antiquity and historical associations, which will amply repay the time and labour devoted to the purpose.

Historians inform us that there is no reason to suppose any town of importance existed here during the long period of the Roman or Saxon era, nor is Richmond even mentioned in Doomsday; but Gilling, close by, the capital of the Wapentakes of the name, and famed in recent years for the number of good horses bred and trained there, is particularly noticed. Seated on a projecting plot of ground, formed by nature for command, it is no wonder that the warriors of Brittany, to whom its scenery was evidently of very minor consideration, should at once have made the place their permanent citadel. It is now viewed, however, with far different sentiments—as the fairest spot on one of the loveliest streams which Yorkshire can produce, amid her thousand rivulets. It is the capital of a land whose riches of romance are scarcely exceeded by any other in England—the chosen seat of its own Earls—the Scropes, Fitzhughs, Marmions, and those setters-up and pullers-down of kings, the richest, noblest, and most prudent race of the north, the lordly Nevilles. The Castle is the chief object of attraction, and is deservedly worthy of a brief reference. It is said to have been commenced in the year 1071, at the period of the Norman Conquest, by Alan Rufus, of Brittany, whose prowess at Hastings and the siege of York so pleased the king, that he created him an earl, and gave him 164 manors, composing the later Richmondshire; but the honour or liberty of Richmond comprised altogether 440 manors, in various parts of England—“a fine patrimony, truly, and equal to any

deserts whatsoever." From the circumstance of a small cascade, or cataract, of the Swale, now termed "the force," still existing here, and of more than 600 silver Roman coins of Constantius, Julianus, Valentinianus, a most rare one of Victor, with others of later Emperors, being found in 1720, at the foot of the hill upon which the Castle stands, many have imagined Richmond to be of Roman origin, and the site of Cataractonium; but according to others, Thornbrough Pasture, near Catterick, or "Keterick," five miles distant, appears to be the recognised locality of that celebrated station of the Roman legions, from the extensive remains of fortifications existing there; albeit, it is equally questionable whether the latter may not have been only an outwork to the great point of defence at Richmond, or Riche-mont, so called by Alan either from a castle of the same name in Brittany, or from its being situated in a stronger and more fruitful part of his territory than Gilling. The name of Catterick being so familiar to our readers as a favourite Yorkshire race meeting, it may interest them to state that during the Saxon government the place was a flourishing city till the year 769, when it was totally destroyed by the Danes under the command of Beorn-redus, who shook the throne of Northumberland; but it speedily rose from its ashes, for in 846, seventy-five years after, the marriage of the Northumbrian king Ethelred to Elfrida, the daughter of Offa, king of the Mercians, was solemnised there with great pomp. Subsequent devastations, however, again reduced it to its present

village dimensions. "Keterick Bridge selfe hath but one house as an yn," according to Leland, and some remains of St. Ann's Chapel, (where mass used to be said daily, at twelve o'clock, by a priest from the Hospital of St. Giles, for the use of travellers by this great posting road,) which are stated still to exist, are now degraded by being used as a coal-hole! Verily, time works changes, if not wonders! Similar chapels formerly stood on bridges at Wakefield, Rotherham, Doncaster, and over the Irwell dividing Salford and Manchester. The bridge of Catterick is a most ancient structure, having been rebuilt in 1425, (since which time it has been much widened) "at a cost of £173 6s. 8d., and a gown a piece to the three contractors each of the years they were employed, according to their degree, and the neighbouring quarries to be at their service." "Travellers meet strange bedfellows," and the racing pilgrim in the course of his annual peregrinations visits many districts, to the historical associations of which he is a complete stranger—but we have been too far astray to admit of moralising, and must at once retrace our steps along the pleasantly shaded banks of the Swale, whose course is frequently interrupted by large stones and shelving rocks, to Richmond.

In every point of view the Castle is a magnificent object; and in ancient times on its almost perpendicular rock, must have been considered next to impregnable—sufficiently so to deter besiegers, for it plays but little part in recorded warfare. It is defended on three sides

by a natural slope of great abruptness; and in passing along the delightful walk which winds round the walls, suspended midway between the river and the building, you observe how the rock has been partially hewn and moulded to adapt it to the superstructure. Its imposing dimensions, the freshness of the masonry, the pertinacious dislike to vegetation on its exterior, strike the eye whilst gazing on the towering stronghold, and are evidences of an almost indestructible durability. The hand of time is certain in its effect on all around; the ivy clings to the mouldering walls, and clothes them with a beauty which the noble Keep despises—proud in its sternness, reluctant to boast of “prettiness.” The wonder is that the Castle(which descended through John o’Gaunt to the Earl of Richmond, who succeeded to the Crown as Henry VII.) has remained in such perfect condition. In Edward the Third’s time it was “worth no pounds a year,” and Leland describes it “in mere ruine” 300 years ago! “In a town rising in importance (writes a local author,) its outer buildings would have disappeared long ago; but a stationary agricultural place like Richmond can well afford to be proud in allowing the site to be devoted to the mouldering remains of ancient grandeur. The ivy trembles where the banner proudly floated—the Keep stands silent in its strength.” The latter (whose walls are 11 feet thick) is now used as a storehouse for troops, and a row of residences have been erected for the use of the militia staff in the quadrangle, where a Russian trophy of the Crimean war, in the

shape of a splendid large gun from one of the batteries at Sebastopol, recalls the clang of arms, which has yielded to the bleating of sheep ; whilst barbaric pomp is followed by a melaucholy grace, broken, but passing beautiful. A window at one end of the banquetting-hall was pronounced by George IV., when Prince of Wales, to command “ the noblest prospect he ever beheld,”—one of the most charming “ bits ” being the romantic and wide-extended ruins of Easby Abbey in the distance, skirted by the river Swale, and shut in by an amphitheatre of prettily-wooded high ground, on the summit of which stands Easby Hall, the plain red brick residence of R. M. Jaques, Esq., the well-known proprietor of the stud we are about to describe. The associations of this place are far too interesting to pass over in silence, and we therefore hope our readers will consent to accompany us in a short historical notice of the far-famed Abbey of St. Agatha,

“ Which when decked with all its spires,

“ Served but to feed some pampered abbot’s pride

“ And awe the unletter’d vulgar ! ”

These venerable remains cannot fail to strike the mind with awe, on contemplating the munificence of our forefathers ; and to awaken sentiments of regret that so stately a building was not permitted any longer to ornament the country, not as an object of veneration, but as a specimen how “ religious houses ” were constructed. “ Happy for the Church of England,” says Hearne, “ as well as for the kingdom in general,

had Henry VIII. only reformed, and not destroyed, the "religious houses." The sad consequences of the Reformation are too visible everywhere, not only in the destruction of the buildings, but in the manner in which their revenues and riches were with a prodigal hand disposed of." The Abbey in question was inhabited by the White Canons of the Præmonstratensian order (which found its way to England soon after 1140, in the reign of Stephen), having been founded by Roald, the Constable of Richmond Castle, in 1152, who is recorded to have been a "sare sanct" for his own blood, as his successors presently began to borrow money of the Clervaux, rich merchants of York, "in their great necessity." Croft gradually passed to these more prudent personages, and the posterity of Roald sold their wider lands in other parts to the potent Scropes, into whose possession the foundership of the Abbey was considered to have passed, and here for a long period the Lords of Bolton were honourably interred. In 1534, John Lord Scrope "was received as the very true and undoubted founder;" but rich as these memories are, and curious and interesting as a history of this remarkable family (the coat of which to the present day ranks next to that of the Nevilles as the prominent heraldic decoration of the north), might prove to a certain portion of our readers, we must content ourselves by recording that 'in the space of three hundred years, between 1330 and 1630, the house of Scrope produced two earls, twenty barons, one lord chancellor,

four treasurers, two chief justices, one archbishop, two bishops, five knights of the garter, and numerous baronets!" Even Henry VIII. might easily have been balked of a queen by the Scropes, one of whom, needing money very much, and having nothing to make it of save the marriage of his son, and, not affording to purchase for this son an heiress of land, condescended to negotiate with Lady Parr for her daughter Catherine. The custom, it seems, was to give ten per cent. jointure, calculated on the portion given with the lady, which latter my lord designed to nibble; but the friends of Lady Parr dissuaded her from accepting the usual terms, which she herself had once agreed to, and the business "passed off."

The village of Easby, consisting of some half-dozen cottages only, besides the manor house, is about a mile from Richmond by the high road, and somewhat shorter by a delightfully sheltered pathway, which winds by the river side direct to the Abbey. The ruins stand most stately and delicately aslant the rapid stream of the Swale, and when seen on a bright sunshiny day, as we were fortunate to enjoy on the occasion of our recent visit, the whole panorama presents a charming softness which nature itself alone can pourtray. The situation vividly recalled Tintern, on the banks of the Wye, a favourite resort of our youth; and in viewing these remains of abbots and monks of early times, one must naturally be struck with the taste and judgment exercised by the founders of these "religious houses" in

selecting localities remarkable for their romantic picturesqueness. They seemed to be good judges of most things ; and we dare venture to assert that if the venerable Abbot were to indulge in a “nocturnal flitting” from his present resting place, and in his *robe de nuit* costume of “white cassock with a rochet over it, a long white cloak, and white cap,” honour the present occupier of his possessions with a visit some fine moonlight night, whilst the latter was enjoying his Latakia under the fine old “Abbot’s elm,” or meditating High Treason against both his English and American opponents at Epsom during a stroll through the roofless chancels of the church, he would not select the worst-looking brood mare and yearling from amongst the many which roam and play round the now ivy-clad ruins of his former stately habitation. Fairly nestling therein is one of the most primitive and rustic of village churches—a perfect gem—portions of which, from the exact resemblance of the stonework and architecture, seem to have belonged to the old Abbey itself. The gateway, or former entrance to the latter, almost adjoins the churchyard, in which we noticed many curious inscriptions on the dilapidated tombstones ; one marks the resting place of Fuller, of Newmarket, who trained for the Duke of York, and lived to the patriarchal age of 83. Nearest the church are the most magnificent “remains”—a noble refectory or banquetting hall, which was used for its original purpose, probably for the first time since its evacuation, on the 10th of

August last, when a large party of two hundred dined therein *al fresco*, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Jaques's eldest daughter. The Abbey church must have been of large extent, and in two sepulchral recesses of the north wall, said to have covered the remains of Roald and his lady, the founders, portions of colour, in the style of fresco painting, are remarkably fresh. The remains of the buildings along the river side are most effective, but apparently in a dangerous state, being almost held together by the slender fibres of the creeping plant, which insinuates itself amongst the crevices, and prevents the whole from giving way. The enormous kitchen fire-place is in wonderful preservation, as if time had withheld its mouldering hand from a wish to show after ages that the "abstainers" in those times were better cared for than the occupants of the "religious houses" now-a-days would fain wish us believe. In strolling through the oratory (we think it was) our attention was attracted to a stately beech tree, the stem of which (about four yards in circumference), was split clean in half to a height of at least twenty feet from the ground by the following extraordinary freak of nature:—A few of the nuts falling into the basin of the parent stem from which the larger branches sprung, there took root, and the latter, it is supposed, forced their way into the tree, whereby a fissure was made, which enabled the wind one stormy night to rend the tree in twain down to the ground, in which state it has remained for years—one

half perfectly upright, and the other at right angles, reclining on a piece of the old wall—a curious but astounding proof of the power of nature's handiwork !

The first blood stock we came across were Feodorowna and Polly Taft, who have been enjoying a winter's run in one of the paddocks here, preparatory to being sent into training again in the spring ; and fresh and well they looked, as well they might, with plenty to eat, in such a sequestered spot, protected from the wind by the surrounding acclivities, with nothing to disturb them but the rippling of the river and the cawing of the sable-feathered occupants of an extensive rookery in a row of stately elms which occupy the north side of the high ground overlooking the Abbey. But we must not stop longer to ruminate upon the beauties of this perfect little panorama, the amphitheatrical character of which enables the spectator to take in the whole at a glance from the house or surrounding terraces,—together with the river Swale (on the opposite side of which, at Hipswell Lodge, Economist, the sire of Harkaway, and other good horses, were bred) ;—the Castle and town of Richmond, nestling apparently beneath the Grand Stand on the moor, and overtopped by the mountainous Scar of Whitcliffe, which appears to rear itself to the very clouds ; whilst, from a seat at the summit of the Abbey Wood, erected just above the graves of Comedy, Burletta, and some other old favourites, the expansive view embraces Kirkleatham (where Van Tromp and the Flying Dutchman were

bred), which bounds the prospect on the north-east, and takes in Hambleton End, the highest point of that celebrated training ground (whereupon Mr Jaques's horse, High Treason, is undergoing his Derby preparation), and the country between that point and York, whose Minster spires can also be plainly distinguished above the horizon.

Mr. Jaques, in the zenith of Birdcatcher's popularity, had as many as seventy mares at Easby in one season, but in comparison with other studs there are very few paddocks, Mr. J. preferring to have his mares and foals in large fields, where they can get plenty of grass—their natural food—to eat, rather than in paddocks of limited size, where they eat as much grass with their feet as with their teeth. There is no gainsaying this, and we can truthfully say that it would be impossible for mares to look better than those we saw here. The land is a dry gravelly soil, with plenty of herbage, and the hovels and boxes all that can be required. There is always a good supply of water, and judging from the appearance of the foals and yearlings, their rearing is unexceptionable. Visitors, especially foreigners, are invariably struck with amazement at the apparent out-of-the-way places that have been converted into boxes. The old tithe barn, for instance, with its original lofty roof in perfect preservation, affords accommodation for half-a-dozen mares, exclusive of the foaling-box, over which Massie, the stud groom, sleeps, so as to be always ready; although in reality,

from being shy, delicate, sensitive animals, mares seldom require help at the period of their *accouchement*. The mention of this tithe barn recals a curious circumstance, as exhibiting the truth of the old saying that a coach-and-four might be driven through an Act of Parliament. When Mr. Jaques's father bought the Easby estate in 1816 from the Cuthbert Johnsons, of London, for £45,000 (more than double the price given for it by their predecessors in 1788,) it was sold not tithe-free, from an understanding that the title deeds had gone to France in the Revolution; but Lord Tenterden's Act made it tithe-free, because no claimant appeared to make good his title within three years of the passing thereof; whilst, in contradistinction, an adjoining estate was purchased tithe-free on payment of a small modus, which was afterwards upset, and the estate made titheable!

Mr. Jaques' father began racing with the present century, and his first brood mare was The Star mare, the dam of Agatha, whose first foal was Frailty by Filho da Puta, the dam of Cyprian, whose remarkable career we recently noticed. He also had Barytes, Colocynth, (who, from having a deformed foot, wore an iron patten to support her ankle, and won the only race for which she started), Comedy, and others, the latter of which produced Galena, Farce, Burletta, Opera, Malvolio, Interlude, Semiseria, and Epilogue, and died in 1842. Mr. Jaques's turf career commenced more than half-a-century ago, and his horses were under the care

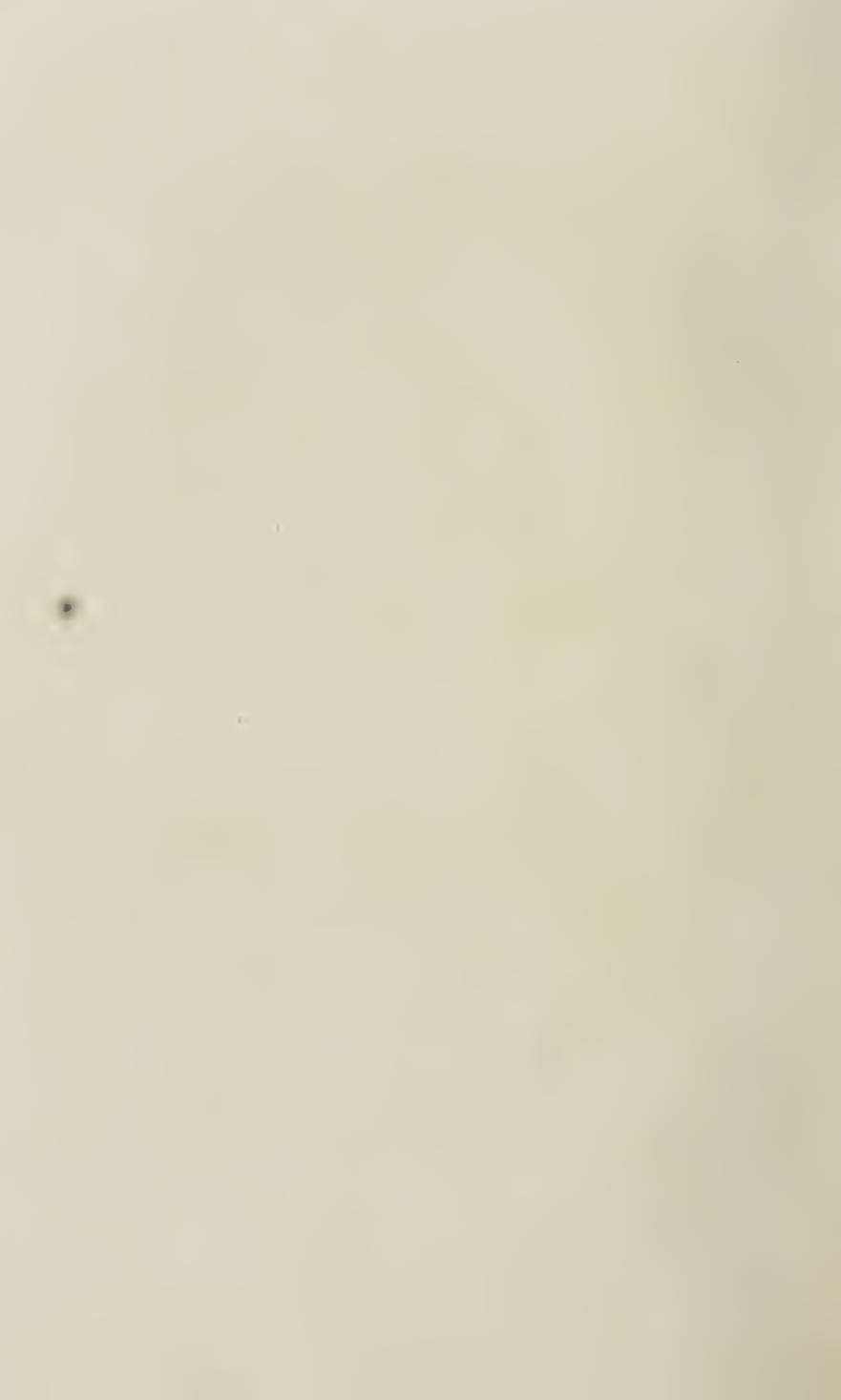
of old Billy Peirse, at Belleisle, near Richmond (now in the occupation of E. Gill), where Lord Sligo's, Lord Kennedy's, and Mr. Lambton's (afterwards Lord Durham's) horses, including Langar, Cavalier, Waverley, Dunsinane, Agricola, Consul, Borodino, Swiss, Cant, Canteen, Manuella, &c., were also trained; and he gave Peirse a "leg up" on the latter when he mounted her for the Oaks, which she won in 1812. At Mr. J.'s death, in 1842, the property with the stud came into the possession of its present proprietor, who began breeding with Galena and Burletta, whilst Semiseria was one of the first racers he ran in his own name. Galena, after being at the stud upwards of twenty years, during which period her chief produce were St. Martin, Galen, Playfellow, Advice, and Playmate, was destroyed in 1829: and Burletta, whose period of service as a brood mare was not so lengthy by six years, was shot in 1857; she was the dam of Extravaganza (One Act's dam), Chantrey, Entre Nous, Pitfall, and Fanfaronade. Both lie with their mother in the Abbey Wood, where Nickname, dam of Castanette, (Fandango's dam), Augur, and Augury is also buried. This mare's career at the stud was so remarkable chequered as to be worth recording. Lord Chesterfield had her four years, during which period her first foal broke its leg, the second year she missed to Don John, and the fourth year her filly died twelve days old. She then became the property of Lord Zetland, and bred Castanette (the dam of Fandango) the first year, slipped her

foal the second, lost the third two days old, and produced Augur the fourth year; whereupon she was bought by Mr. Jaques, and after being barren and losing her foal a day old, in two successive years, she gave birth to Astrologus, Augury, and Massacre ! Semiseria—a happy nomenclature for a daughter of Voltaire and Comedy—was almost as successful on the Turf as her two more matronly companions at the stud ; and being one of the fastest mares of her day—her match on the last half of the Ab. M. with Queen of the Gipsies was nearly the quickest ever run—by beating in her time such horses as Nutwith, shortly after he won the Leger, The Cure, Peggy, Knight of the Whistle, Alice Hawthorn, Inheritress, Ermengardis, Wee Pet, The Shadow, Trueboy, Pagan, The Era, and others, she certainly gave a *prestige* to the “brown and yellow” which the subsequent representatives thereof have failed to sustain. Semiseria was put to the stud at five years old, after running for the Chester Cup, for which she was a tremendous “pot,” and after producing Semi Franc (whose ludicrous race with Belus at Doncaster was his only performance,) Mildew, and a filly by Emilius, she was sold with her foal for £500 to the King of Holland, then Prince of Orange, who had a large breeding establishment at Loo, in Holland, where for a few years some capital races were got up, at which the prizes were sufficiently tempting to attract many good horses from England, including The Cur, Brandy Face, Westow, and Darkie, who, ridden by Mr. Stirling

Crawfurd, Mr. Gay, Sam Rogers, and Swann, it is scarcely necessary to add, divided the chief spoils between them. Mildew proved himself so good a two-year-old both in public and private that Mr. Jaques sold half of him for £1,500 to Captain Bastard, and the horse (who was trained by Smith at Newmarket) became first favourite for the Derby, about a week before which he beat Lady Evelyn (four years old) at even weights a mile and a half! This "cracked" him, he went a roarer, and his appearance in the paddock clearly exhibited his loss of nerve; but previous to the race, wherein he ran fifth to his neighbour Voltigeur, Mr. Jaques, who had backed Mildew to win £175,000, hedged his money on most advantageous terms (laying as much as £10,000 to £3,000 against the horse just before starting), so that he stood half the original amount almost "to nothing!" A day or two afterwards Mr. J. re-purchased his partner's half for a comparative trifle, and within a fortnight Mildew astonished the natives by winning the Queen's Vase at Ascot over the larger distance of two miles. He was taken out of training the following year and stood here from 1852 to the spring of '57, during which time he had only a few of his owner's mares, when, on a friend of Mr. J.'s expressing a wish to become possessed of a thoroughbred horse for £20, he was accommodated with Mildew; but his new master so soon repented of his bargain that, at a loss of a "fiver," he transferred it to Mr. Wright, of Richmond, who used him for a couple

of seasons and then sent him to Rawcliffe, where he stood in 1859; and this season, on the strength of the running of High Treason (whose dam was put to him in 1857) Mr. Wright has let him for five times the sum he gave for the horse to Mr. Halford, who also purchased from Mr. W. Bird, of Prey, a two-year-old filly by Mildew out of Prairie Bird. Such are the vicissitudes to which horse flesh is liable; but the case of Mildew is not the only instance of this nature worth mentioning in connexion with the Easby Stud, which numbered in 1854 as many as thirty brood mares, amongst whose produce may be mentioned Saunterer, Augury, Alas, Dear Me, Crosslanes, Forbidden Fruit, Catpaw, Skycutter, &c. At the York August meeting in that year Mr. Jaques reduced his stud, and John Osborne bought Saunterer and Augury when foals for £50 a-piece, the late Lord Londesborough purchasing Ennui (Saunterer's dam) for £95. At the close of his three-year-old season Mr. Merry gave Mr. Jackson 2,100 guineas for the "black 'un," who got back his purchase money with interest on the Goodwood Cup the following year; John Osborne, we believe, refused a "thou" for Augury; and Lord Londesborough realised 500 gs. for one of Ennui's yearlings—Loiterer—which Mr. Ten Broeck sold as a two-year-old to Sir Joseph Hawley for exactly treble the sum he gave for the colt at the hammer, Sir Joseph taking all Mr. Ten Broeck's bets about Loiterer, amounting to upwards of £700, off his hands in the bargain! The ridiculous tale circulated by a certain





portion of the press respecting a £10,000 bet between Umpire and Loiterer, by their respective owners, is a *canard*, as we stated some time back. At the York sale in question £50 was the reserve put upon the foals, and double that sum upon several of the mares, of which Warplot, Chisel, and another were returned without reaching that price; but a little later in the year the same three were sold privately at Easby for 750 guineas to go to France! Days of Yore was sold for 70 guineas in foal to Mildew, and the produce was Old Times, which Mr. Jaques happened to see in Lucas's catalogue, to be sold at the Liverpool July meeting two years afterwards, and commissioned John Osborne to buy him. His unfashionable blood and three-cornered appearance caused so little competition that Mr. Jaques obtained the colt for 30 guineas, and at the end of his two-year-old season sold him to Lord Derby for 800gs. Mr. Jaques bought Virginia, the dam of Virago, at the late Mr. Stephenson's sale for £100, in foal with Overreach, which latter filly he sold at two years old to Mr. Howard for exactly five times that amount; and the following year Mr. "Hope" gave him £500 for the dam, who was 20 years old, and proved only a "flattering tale" by turning out barren!

Mr. Jaques's public yearling sales have been so very irregular, from his taste causing him to prefer to train rather than sell, besides disposing of his young stock privately whenever opportunity offered, that it would not be fair to attempt an average; but he has frequently obtained

good prices for his yearlings. Mr. Gully bid 900 gs. for Chantrey by Touchstone, out of Burletta, at the hammer, and it was bought in at 950, the reserve being a thousand, which sum would have been given by a well known Turfite, who rejoices in his Yorkshire descent, but the "paper currency" proposed was not considered equivalent to the more negotiable "promises to pay" off the "old lady in Threadneedle-street!" Tom Fool, Burletta's third foal by Pantaloon, which dropped down dead in training at two years old, was sold at the hammer for 500 guineas. Mr. J. refused the same sum in his box at home for Sky King, by Birdcatcher out of Gipsy Queen, when a yearling—unluckily, as it turned out, for on starting him to Doncaster he broke away from the man, galloped down the high road until he fell from exhaustion, which brought on lock-jaw, from which he died. From the mare's rare blood—by Tomboy out of the dam of Mendicant (Beadsman's dam), by Tramp, her dam Kite (granddam of Orlando), by Bustard—Mr. Jaques regarded her as a prize at 190 guineas when he bought Gipsy Queen, at the late Mr. Fowler's sale in 1852, especially as she produced two or three that could "run a bit," such as Cingari, Calot, and Gipsy King; but she turned out as unfortunate as Volley had done at the Royal Stud, as Plague Royal (her next foal after Sky King,) went wrong in her wind, after being tried a good mare; Curse Royal, her sister, met with an accident when young, which damaged her for racing purposes. High Treason has

escaped the "ills (horse) flesh is heir to" so far, though disappointing his owner too often to be pleasant ; the mare was barren in 1858, and it is feared is so again, in consequence of undergoing the operation last year of having her foal removed piecemeal before it had arrived at maturity. She is the oldest mare in the stud except Utopia, who is twenty-two ; the latter is own sister to Jericho, with the purest Waxy and Selim blood in her veins, through Turquoise, who won the Oaks for the Duke of Grafton, in 1828. With the exception of Sweetheart, all the other mares are young and at the same time well bred ; amongst the number being that serviceable friend to bookmakers, Rosati, who for a season or two had as many admirers for the Goodwood Stakes and Cesarewitch as her more attractive namesake had during Mr. Lumley's *regime* at Her Majesty's !

All things considered, perhaps, Mr. Jaques has been most unfortunate at racing, considering the number of horses he has bred, and the large prices he has given for others—1,500 gs. for Hurworth at two years old, for example, who never started, and over whom he lost twice as much more by backing him for the Derby in West Australian's year, being at the time a stable companion of the latter. He also purchased A British Yeoman, and matched him against the late Mr. Hope Johnstone's William le Gros, at 12st. each, two miles, at Doncaster, for 1,000 sovs. aside, p.p. ; but The Yeoman was too lame to start and the other walked over.

That he possessed a good though uncertain two-year-old in High Treason, the horse's performances testified; it remains to be seen whether he will turn out a sufficiently good three-year-old to realise the dream of his owner's ambition by bringing the "blue riband" of the Turf to Easby, when we may reasonably expect to see the present comfortable old residence replaced by a mansion worthy of the locality, in commemoration of a triumph so intimately associated with that "classic ground!"

The stallion-yard is large, and most pleasantly situated by the river side, in a most secluded part of the ruins, and its occupants, it will be seen from the following list of the horses that have stood at Easby each season since 1847, have included some of the highest planets of the racing hemisphere:—

1847—Emilius and Clarion.

1848—Birdcatcher.

1849—Birdcatcher and Assault.

1850—Pyrrhus the First and Burgundy.

1851—Pyrrhus the First.

1852—Birdcatcher, Gameboy and Mildew.

1853—Birdcatcher, Gameboy and Mildew.

1854—Birdcatcher, Gameboy and Mildew.

1855—Birdcatcher, Gameboy and Mildew.

1856—Gameboy and Mildew.

1857—Weatherbit and Gameboy.

1858—Teddington and Weatherbit.

1859—Weatherbit and Papageno.

1860—Weatherbit and Neasham.



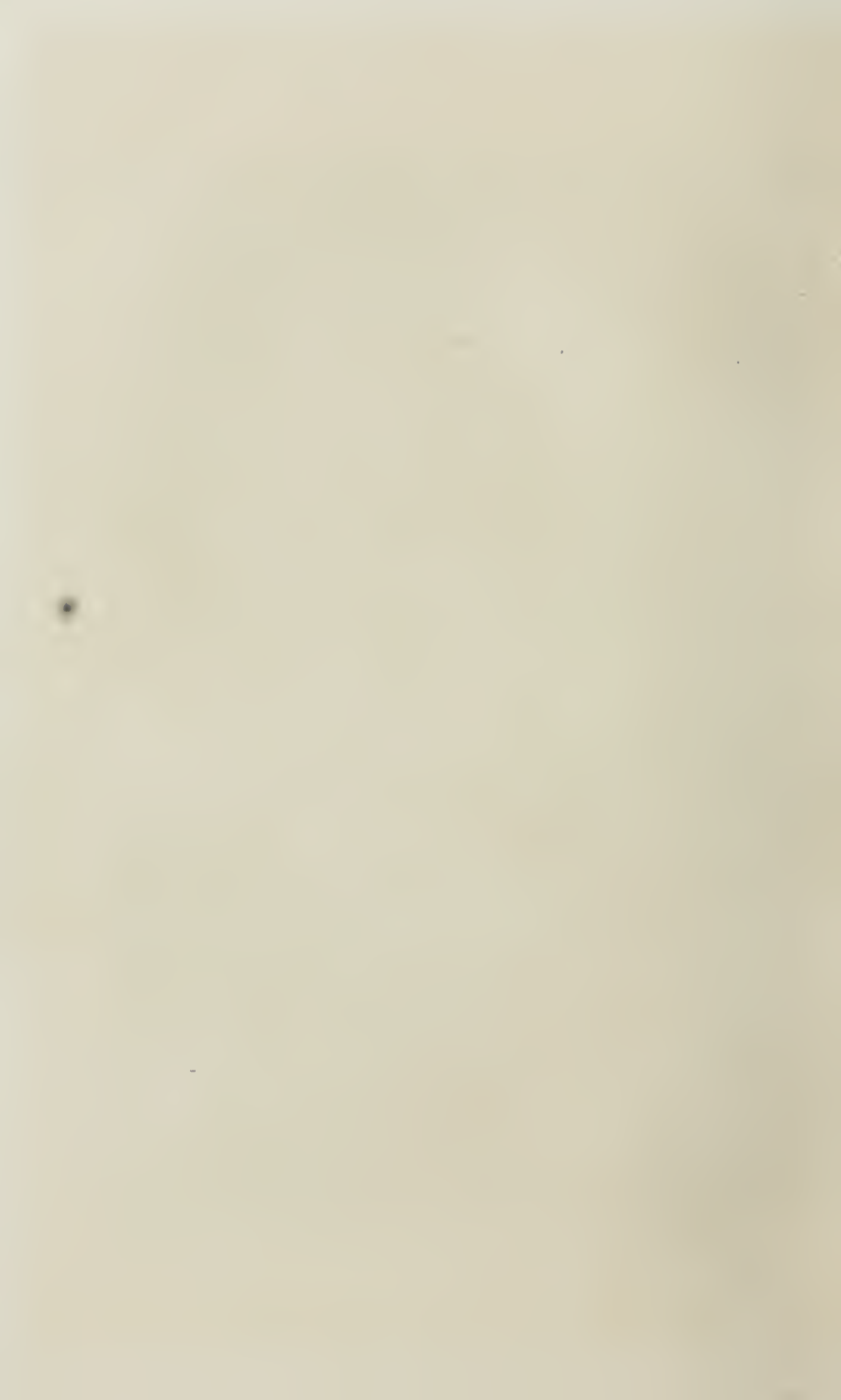
W. M. L. H. S.





Fig. 4. Stallion.

Fig. 5. Stallion.



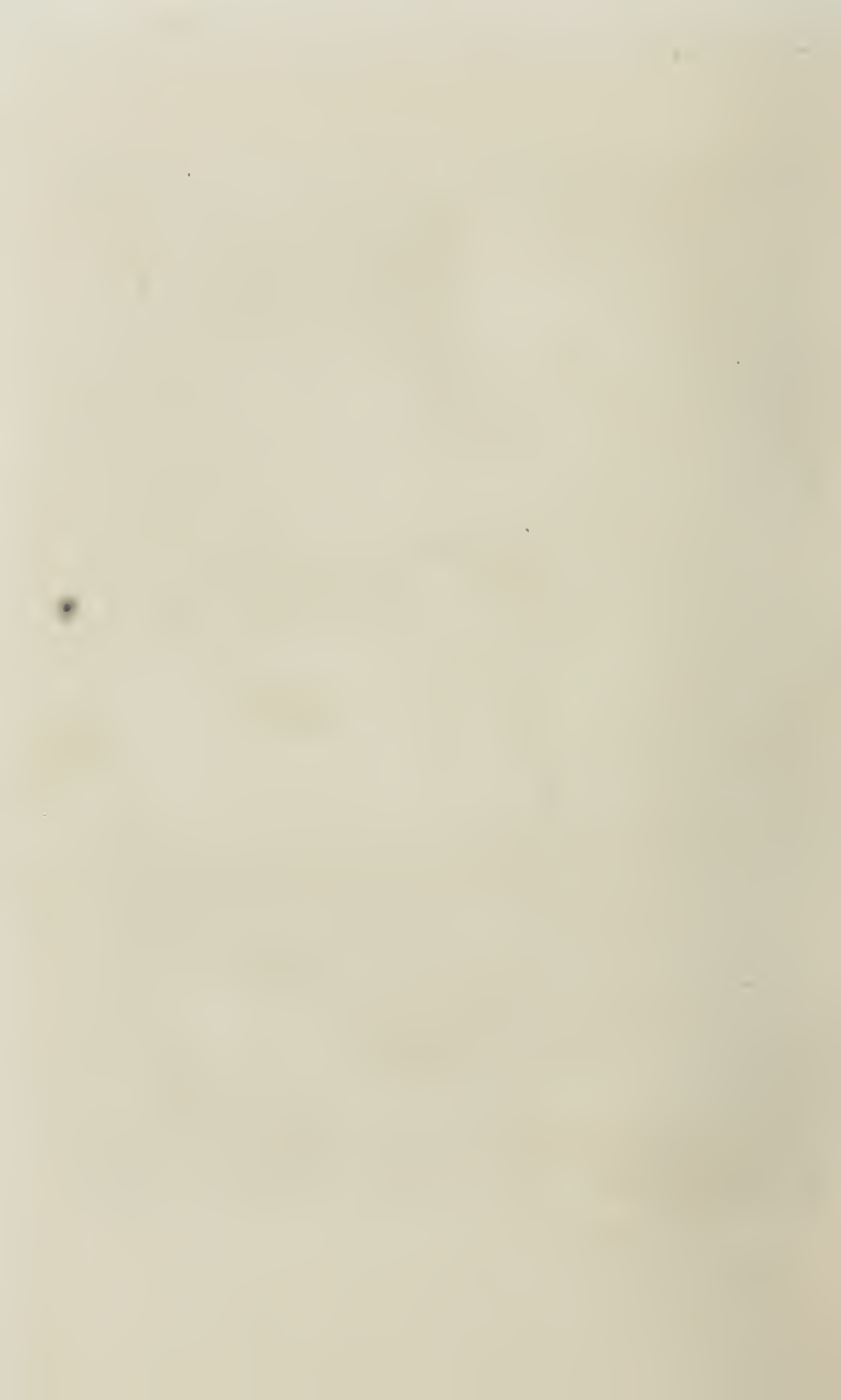








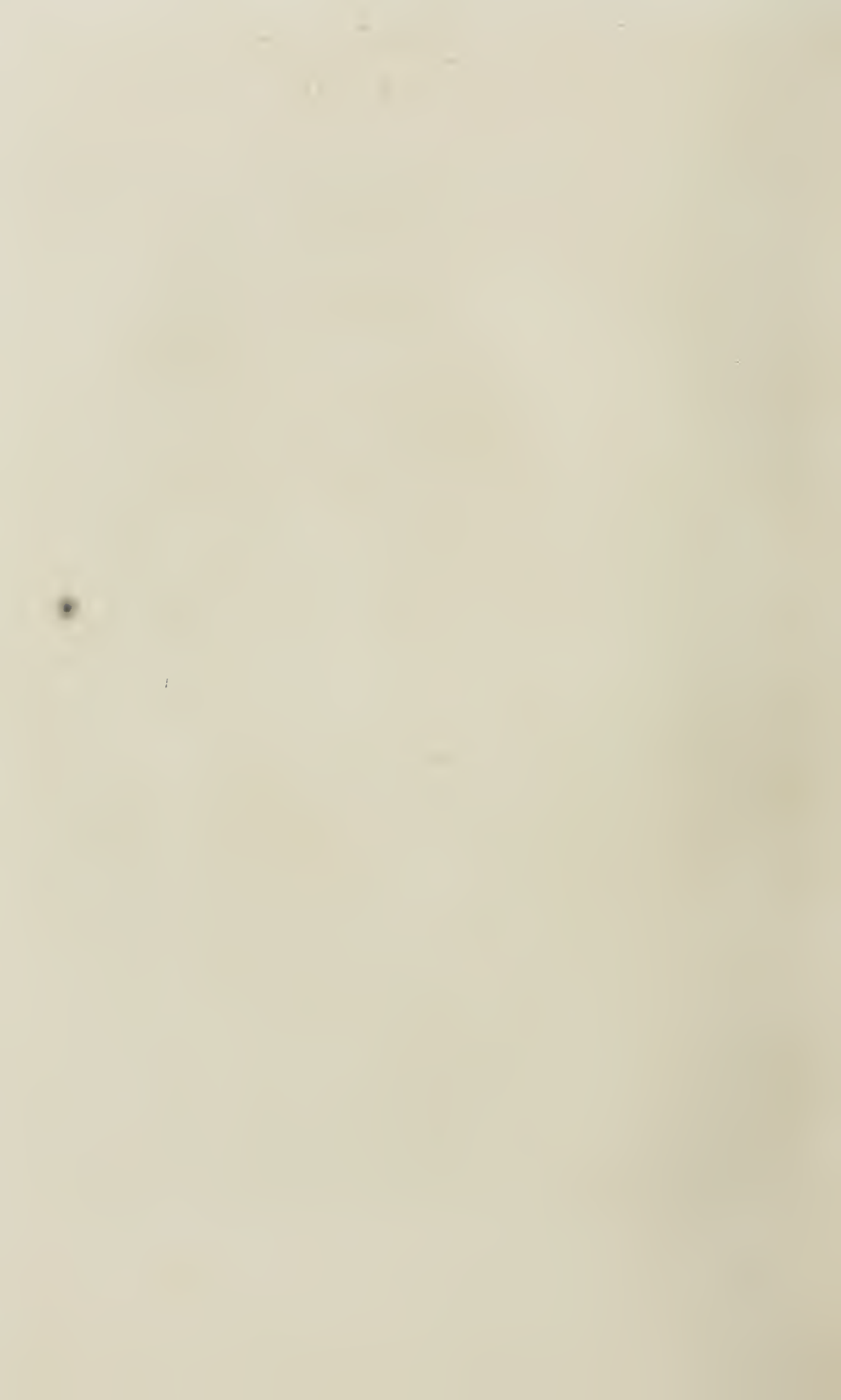








Portrait of a horse
by J. M. W. Turner



Few horses enjoyed greater reputation on the turf and at the stud than Emilius, who, from having ended his days here, deserves a passing notice in our description of this stud, comparable as was his career amongst the past with that of Touchstone of the present day. Emilius won the Derby in 1823, and was the sire of Priam and Plenipotentiary, both winners of the Derby, and each is still upheld by the "old school" as the best horse the Turf ever saw ; of Oxygen, winner of the Oaks ; of Mango, winner of the St. Leger ; of Euclid, who ran a dead heat for the same race with Charles XII. ; of Marcus, the only horse that ever beat Camarine ; of Preserve, second to Queen of Trumps for the Oaks ; of Extempore, winner of the Thousand Guineas, and second to Cymba for the Oaks ; of Pompey, Riddlesworth, Theon, Ben y Ghlo, and many other good horses, numbering nearly 150 winners, of which England's Glory was nearly the last. He was also grandsire of Crucifix (dam of Surplice, Cowl, &c.), Miss Letty, Industry (dam of Lady Evelyn), and Poison, all four winners of the Oaks, a distinction Lady Evelyn also lays claim to ; while Surplice had the honour of carrying off both Derby and Leger in 1848, the first time that great double event had been accomplished since the commencement of the present century, when Champion was the winner of both races in 1800. Emilius's terms were 50 guineas for a number of years, but Lord George Bentinck having hired the horse for the seasons of 1845 and 1846, reduced his price to 20 guineas ; and some

idea of his vigorous constitution may be formed from the circumstance of no fewer than twenty-three foals being officially returned to him in the *Calendar* of the latter year, though limited to twelve mares, besides his noble lessee's, who is credited with twelve of the produce ! Mr. Jaques, who reduced his fee to 16 guineas, hired him from Mr. Thornhill's executors on the break-up of the Riddlesworth stud, for his opening season (1847) at Easby, for £100, and owing to his great age insured his life—the first policy of the kind ever issued by the office—for that amount, which curiously enough “fell in,” owing to the horse dying in the August of that year, aged twenty-seven—it may be said from over-kindness, in consequence of one of the grooms having given him, as an extra treat, a feed of whole oats, which the poor old fellow was unable to masticate. He lies buried in a small paddock by the river side, formed out of the Abbey ruins; and an old crosiered tombstone (supposed to be that of a cardinal) placed in the wall denotes the resting-place of one of the most celebrated horses of the British turf. Mr. Jaques has preserved some mementoes of the old horse—his shank bones, which resemble ivory, form the silver-mounted handles to a “round of beef knife and fork,” and two of his feet have been formed into a snuff-box and ink-stand. Birdcatcher, or “Irish” Birdcatcher, as he was then called, to distinguish him from a horse of Sir Richard Bulkley's of the same name at that time living, though not enrolled amongst the gallery of Derby or

St. Leger winners, enjoyed a brilliant but short reputation as a race horse, having on one occasion run Harkaway of the same age to a head at a mile, giving the latter 20lb.; and as a sire the success of his stock, which mostly exhibited his speedy characteristics, deservedly obtained for him the highest honours at the stud. He originally stood in Ireland, but had comparatively few mares, though he got The Baron (winner of the St. Leger), and Chanticleer, whose running caused him to be better patronised during his two first seasons here, when his terms were 16 guineas. He went back to the Curragh for the season of 1850, and the following year stood at Newmarket, where he must have had comparatively few mares, for his foals decreased from 26 to half a dozen in the two years! In 1852, he returned to his old quarters at Easby, at an increased rate of 25 guineas, which, in consequence of his son Daniel O'Rourke winning the Derby, and his three daughters, Songstress, Bird-on-the-Wing, and Gossamer, running first, second, and third for the Oaks, was raised to 50 guineas in '53, and remained so for the two next seasons, his subscription (limited to thirty mares besides his lessee's) being full each season! In 1853, Mr. Jaques, though paying the high rent of £800 for Birdcatcher, cleared upwards of £1000 by him, having received "half forfeit" from two subscribers who wished to be let off which enabled Mr. J. to take in two other mares for which he had no vacancy, so that in reality he received 75 guineas for each of the latter,

besides the sum of £236 for seven others, and having eight of his own mares covered into the bargain! Birdcatcher afterwards stood at Cawston Lodge for three successive seasons, at the reduced price of 20 guineas, and last year returned to his owner's stables, at the Curragh, where he stood at 15 guineas. Few strains of blood have proved more successful than the Sir Hercules, and we always regretted the loss of the Baron, after leaving such a noble specimen of his race behind him as Stockwell, for though the former does not appear to have done much in France, the difference of treatment horses are there subjected to in the Haras is sufficient to account for his failure in that country. Birdcatcher stood first on the list of successful stallions in 1852 and 1856, his stock winning £16,775 (including Derby and Oaks) and £15,987 (including the St. Leger); third in 1855, fifth in 1857, and sixth in 1854 (including the St. Leger) and 1858; whilst his son Chanticleer was second in the latter year with £11,147 (including the St. Leger) and his son the Baron stood third with only three winners in 1852, with £10,195, (including the St. Leger). Last year the old horse stood eighth on the list, with £7,035, being within £50 of Mr. Merry's "gallant grey." Altogether, as near as we can calculate, from 1841 to the end of 1849, Birdcatcher produced 335 winners of $718\frac{1}{2}$ races, of the value of £117,603, including one Derby, one Oaks, and three St. Legers, and "any quantity" of cups and other large races! Pyrrhus the First commenced his career here,

and Gameboy, it will be seen, served quite an apprenticeship at Easby ; but neither particularly distinguished himself ; for though Virago happened to be got here, which gave "Pyrrhus" a momentary *prestige*, which his owner took advantage of at the proper moment by raising his fee from 10 guineas to 30 guineas and letting him to the foreigners before the indifferent quality of his stock, since the occurrence of that extraordinary freak of nature, exhibited itself. Teddington, it will be seen, stood here one season, but had not a quarter of the six-and-twenty mares, at 20 guineas each, his subscription was limited to, as an absurd notion originally prevailed with respect to this very superior horse, that he was too small to breed from. His owner, after all, perhaps, ought to congratulate himself that the public did not take to the horse kindly at first, for after working his way solely by merit to the front rank, he is now comparatively fresh, with every prospect of maintaining the *prestige* of his distinguished sire.

The present occupants of the harem at Easby are Weatherbit and Neasham, the latter of whom, having been sent into the north by his owner, Mr. Blenkiron, in order to try his fortune in the district where his blood is better known than in the south, replaces Papageno, who met with an accident which caused his death shortly after returning to Wales at the close of last season. Weatherbit is one of the last of old Sheet Anchor's stock left, and one of the few stallions in the country with the Emilius and Priam blood in his veins,

Miss Letty, his dam, being one of the three daughters of the last-named horse that won the Oaks, previously referred to. He is a rich brown, powerful horse, on remarkably short legs, with fine shoulders, immense back, and great depth of quarter; he is a little light in his girth as well as in his thighs, perhaps, compared with other portions of his body, and at first sight appears deficient in bone below the knee, but they are strong flat legs, and his stock exhibit no want of that material characteristic. He has a beautiful head, and his lively disposition bespeaks a healthy constitution. Weatherbit was a good race horse though an unfortunate one, and the Danebury stable, supported by the subsequent running of Weatherbit and Old England at Ascot, attribute the loss of the Derby in 1845, for which he and Idas almost divided the favouritism at starting, solely to the disappointment he met with at Tattenham Corner through jumping over Pam, who fell just before him—not the only *contretemps* connected with the race, as Alarm and The Libel had a “round” before starting, which resulted in Mr. Greville’s horse getting rid of Nat, and “playing Old Harry” with his chance by galloping down the hill and running against the chains! Mr. Gully sold Weatherbit when four years old for 800 guineas to the Duke of Bedford, and he stood at Oakley and Newmarket, where he got Weathergaze (whose running at once brought him into notice as a stallion), Drumour (one of the best horses of his year, as was shown by his running Leamington

to a neck at a difference of 6lb. only for the year), Pampa, The Farmer's Son, &c. The Duke of Bedford sold Weatherbit to Sir Wm. Gooch, and at his death Mr. Jaques, who always entertained a "sneaking affection" for the horse, made an offer for him; but the executors stood out for more than double, though glad to come to Mr. Jaques's own terms afterwards, and in the spring of 1857 that gentleman bought him for 350 guineas—a bargain, as events subsequently turned out. That season he commenced his career at Easby at 15 guineas, and had twenty-four mares, besides seven of his owner's; in 1858, he had thirty-three, and six of his owner's; and in consequence of Beadsman's Derby victory, which placed him fourth in the list of successful stallions, was raised to 25 guineas last year; when he covered thirty mares, (of which number John Osborne sent a dozen), besides fifteen of Mr. Jaques's. His forthcoming season promises to be equally satisfactory.

The few yearlings at Easby, compared with the number of mares, is accounted for by the circumstance of Sweetheart and the Belle being barren in 1859; of Leprosy, Curse Royal, and Malaria being maidens; and of Augusta, Agapemone, Rosati, Fanfaronade, Lizzie, and Leah being recent purchases; whilst the loss of Gipsy Queen's foal has been already referred to. Of the seven yearlings five are colts. We first saw the two fillies called Summer Goose (sister to Weatherwich) and Judy O'Rourke (sister to The Leprochaun), who

occupy a splendid paddock at the end of the Terrace. The latter, from her superior size and powerful mould, looks like carrying weight to hounds, and, by many, would probably be preferred to her companion, who, though not so big or so strong-limbed, is a rare goer, and a wiry, clever filly, with particularly good quarters. Our south-country readers, although partial to a "green goose" and a bird of the same tribe at Michaelmas, may not be acquainted with a "Summer Goose," which derives its appellation in Yorkshire, where the glimmering haze which intercepts the view in looking at distant objects, especially on high ground, and which portends fine weather, is called by that name. Hence the appropriateness of the title in this instance. Who's Who and Fairy Seat run together in the small paddock where Emilius is buried. Each has four white legs, and Who's Who uses his in a manner to warrant the belief that he will show his heels to many an opponent hereafter. He exhibits much more of the characteristics of Teddington than Weatherbit, except in colour; and though looking bad in his coat when we saw him, from having had the distemper very recently, we could not help taking a strong fancy to him. In size, however, he is not to be compared to Neptunus, by Weatherbit, out of Athena Pallas, who from having been born in February, has four or five months' advantage in age, is more furnished, and is a fine lengthy colt, with action that looks like staying any distance. He has immense bone and limbs, beautiful shoulders, and good girth, but is a trifle

slack in his loins ; stands on very short legs, and has a countenance full of good nature. He ought to make a race horse. His companion, Attaman, who was bought with his dam (Augusta) last summer at Tattersall's, is a most promising specimen of Muscovite's stock—lengthy, strong, compact, with plenty of quality, and such a rare goer that it is not at all improbable many may prefer him to the big'un, Neptunus. Remedy's first produce, Kill or Cure, which claims the joint paternity of Teddington and Weatherbit, had also been a severe sufferer from distemper, and of the colts took our fancy less than anything except Fairy Seat. When Mr. Jaques reduced his stud in 1857, his old groom, T. Winteringham, went to the Croft Stud Farm, near Darlington, and was succeeded by Massie, the present stud groom, who appears to be a pains-taking, careful servant. The horses, mares, and yearlings at present under his charge are as follows :—

STALLIONS.

Weatherbit (19) by Sheet Anchor, out of Miss Letty, by Priam, her dam by Orville—Buzzard—Hornpipe, by Trumpator.

Neasham (12) by Hetman Platoff out of Wasp, by Mulley Moloch, grandam by Emilius out of Bee in a Bonnet, by Blacklock—Maniac, by Shuttle—Anticipation, by Beningbrough—Skim, &c., &c.

BROOD MARES.

Utopia (22) sister to Jericho, by Jerry, out of Torquoise, by Selim —Pope Joan, by Waxy	SERVED BY King of Trumps.
Gipsy Queen (20) by Tomboy out of Lady Moor Carew, by Tramp, grandam Kite by Bustard	} Weatherbit & King of Trumps
Sweetheart (17) by The Doctor, out of Sunbeam, by Vanish—Ultima by Bourbon	Weatherbit.
Athena Pallas (11) by Birdcatcher, out of Minerva, by Muley Moloch	Weatherbit.
The Belle (10) by Birdcatcher out of The Biddy, by Bran	Weatherbit.
Augusta (10) by Birdcatcher, out of Momento, by Voltaire	} Muscovite and Wea- therbit.
Remedy (9) by The Cure, out of Young Madcap, by Passenger ..	Weatherbit.
Streatham Fairy (9) by Epirus, out of The Flapper, by Touchstone..	Weatherbit.
Agapemone (9) (Sister to Aphro- dite) by Bay Middleton, out of Venus, by Sir Hercules	Weatherbit.
Rosati (7) by Alarm, dam Duver- nay, by Emilius	Vindex.
Fairy Stone (6) by Touchstone, out of Titania, by Emilius	Weatherbit.
Actress (6) by Annandale, out of Epilogue, by Inheritor	} Weatherbit and King of Trumps
Fanfaronade (6) by Gameboy, out of Burletta, by Actæon	Weatherbit.
Lizzie (5) by Orlando, out of Her- sey, by Glaucus	Weatherbit.
Leah (5) by Collingwood, out of Termagant, by Cotherstone	Weatherbit.

- Curse Royal (4) by Mildew, out of
 Gipsy Queen, by Tomboy Weatherbit.
 Malaria (3) by Mildew, out of The
 Belle, by Birdcatcher Weatherbit.
 Leprosy (5) by Mildew, out of
 Athena Pallas, by Birdcatcher .. Maiden.

YEARLINGS.

- Neptunus, b. c., by Weatherbit, out of Athena Pallas.
 Who's Who, br. c., by Weatherbit or Teddington, out
 of Actress.
 Attaman, b. c., by Muscovite, out of Augusta.
 Kill or Cure, b. c., by Teddington or Weatherbit, out
 of Remedy.
 Fairy Seat, ch. c., by Idle Boy, out of Fairy Stone.
 Judy O'Rourke, b. f., by Daniel O'Rourke, out of
 Streatlam Fairy.
 Summer Goose, br. f., by Weatherbit, out of Utopia.

In concluding our notice of the "Easby Abbey Stud," the name of whose proprietor has long been a "household word," familiar alike to the sportsmen and the agriculturists of Yorkshire, it may not be out of place to refer to the two very flattering public testimonials which have been presented to Mr. Jaques in that county—one in the shape of his portrait, by Phillips, subscribed for by the farmers of Richmondshire for getting up the Farmers' Club and Agricultural Association at Richmond;—the other consisting of a handsome *candelabra*, which was given to Mr. J. by the citizens of York, as an acknowledgment of the zealous interest he

manifested in reviving York races at Mr. Orton's death in 1843; when, in accepting the stewardship, he stipulated that the sum of £1,000 should be given to the stakes, and half as much towards forming the inclosure and effecting other improvements on Knavesmire, "poor Orton" having previously originated the Great Yorkshire Stakes. Mr. Jaques was formerly a large farmer, and once gave as much as £500 for a cow, with which he made money. His short-horns invariably gained premiums at the Richmondshire, Northallerton, and Yorkshire meetings, held at Doncaster, Hull, and York; and he also carried off prizes at the Cambridge and Bristol meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1840 and 1842 with Mermaid, Clementi, and Golden Drop. On taking leave of his agricultural friends, in order to devote his attention to the Turf, Mr. Jaques indulged in the following prophecy, which has been fulfilled to the letter:—"Long-established habits and prejudices are hard indeed to break through, but want is a task-master that will take no refusal; and the time has arrived when the farmer of small capital will find it impossible to keep his place in society, if he persist in attempting, with the knowledge and practices of the last century, to supply the wants of this!"

R. M. JAKUES, ESQ.,

OF EASBY ABBEY, RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE.

It very rarely happens for a man to achieve any great eminence in a pursuit where natural taste is not one of the chief reasons for engaging in it. The heartiness with which he sets about and continues his endeavours, goes very far of itself, in this country, to ensure a favourable opinion with the public, if not absolute success in the experiment. There are few stronger or better examples of this than that afforded in the life of a man whose fortune and position rank him as an English country gentleman—a character which, however enviable in the abstract, has to mainly depend on the habits and disposition of its representative for the respect and good properties so generally attached to it. If the squire of the parish has unhappily no enjoyment in rural life, or the society of those with whom it is connected—if he goes through the common customs, and fulfils the certain duties of his station, merely because he feels, or perhaps, rather is told, he ought to pay attention to them, or that so much has invariably been expected from the family at the Hall—if there is little beyond these forms and ceremonies to actuate him, his name and countenance to the middle, his kindness

and generosity to the lower classes, will, depend upon it, be received with very much of that same want of innate sympathy and cordiality with which it is given. On the other hand, if the true country gentleman has the health, heart, and spirit to enter bodily into the well-doing of those around him—if he can really feel an interest and a pleasure not only in watching their progress, but in entering on the same employment of time and capital himself—if he has ability sufficient to stand amongst the first in suggesting improvement, and determination enough to figure as forward in carrying it out—if to the simple weight of his name he can add the counsel of experience and the zeal of participation, he will command an affectionate regard and a proud popularity, that no false pretences or forced motives, let them be ever so well contrived and concealed, could either excite or retain.

On these favourable terms have we to introduce Mr. Jaques as an English gentleman, while at the same time the very fact of his portrait appearing in this work guarantees him as an English farmer—a union that never yet failed in further increasing the advantages and recommendations of both characters. To the latter, indeed, of the two so interested, Mr. Jaques has in every way been more than a usually sincere and serviceable friend; his doings and successes as an agriculturist bearing rather on what has been effected for a whole body of farmers than any particular individual honour or object devised or accomplished for himself alone.

Very many men, we are aware it may be said, have attempted this wholesale system of advancing a cause it is their desire to see improve ; but none possessing equal fortune, and consequently equal temptation to do things by deputy, have studied or worked harder for the genuine good of the farmer than the subject of our present notice. Power of purse, to be sure, is a very fine starting point ; but when we can join with it absolutely hard labour in furthering its beneficial influence—when we can witness such labour, well directed and long continued, gratefully acknowledged by those for whom it was employed, and triumphantly defeating those difficulties it had encountered, we must give as in the present instance, the well-earned laurels to the *able* man rather than to the *rich* one.

Our opinion of the benefit arising from the establishment of farmers' clubs and local agricultural meetings has been too often repeated to require further consideration here ; but were we requested to name any one whose object, management, and success would afford a good model for a new society of the same description about to be founded, we should unhesitatingly point to the Richmondshire Agricultural Association, or the Richmondshire Farmers' Club. And again, were we pressed to give some reason for the admirable system of either or both these institutions, we would impress upon our inquirer the manifest advantages of a good practical *working* patron, and furnish him with the name and address of R. M. Jaques, Esq., the late

president of one, and chairman and acting secretary of the other; through whose indefatigable exertions and well applied liberality they have chiefly reached that high position they now enjoy. Indeed, Mr. Jaques's efforts, suggestions, and improvements in agriculture have been so intimately connected with the transactions of these two societies, that it will be necessary for us to take something like a brief review of their rise and progress in enumerating the leading features in the career of their worthy "guide, philosopher, and friend."

The Richmondshire Agricultural Association held its first annual meeting in 1836; Mr. Jaques becoming president on the retirement of the Earl of Zetland, about the fourth year from its commencement. The Farmers' Club dates its origin some years after the Association, the rules and original list of members not being published before the July of 1841, in which we find Mr. Jaques leading off with the offices he yet fills of chairman and secretary. The Agricultural Association, although from the first gradually increasing in strength, did not reach any great or general importance until the fifth meeting, in October, 1840, when, amongst other additions to its funds and attractions, Mr. Jaques gave a judicious help in the following offer:—Two premiums at the next meeting, for stock the property of tenants at less than 500 pounds a-year rent; five pounds for the best cow, and five pounds for the best two-year-old heifer. The increase of the usual premiums at this agricultural show was afterwards at the

suggestion of Mr. Jaques, still further carried out by the formation of an additional class for that purpose ; which was subsequently adopted by the Northallerton, Stockton, and other local shows in the neighbourhood at their formation. The good policy of confining certain premiums to such a class of agriculturists can scarcely be too greatly extolled ; if any men need encouragement in their vocations, the small tenant farmer is surely one of the first who should have it. At the majority of these shows, however, we confess, the competition in almost everything being left entirely open, the farmer who is fighting his way up has disadvantages to contend with that often render it next to impossible for him to exhibit his stock on fair terms, or with any reasonable hope of success ; the great wealth alone of many of his opponents giving them a pull in all that relates to breeding and rearing stock, which the mere industry and experience of the man who farms for bread, could scarcely be expected even for a moment to stand up against. To remedy this, and give every person, from the highest to the lowest interested in agriculture, a chance in attending and a pleasure in supporting such meetings, let every show have a stake formed on the principle of that Mr. Jaques started at the Richmond Association in 1840, and then shall we have farmer Jones showing as much delight and pride in beating his neighbour Brown, as his Royal Highness Prince Albert or His Grace the Duke of Richmond, in beating all the world.

The next suggestion we have to notice, as proposed by Mr. Jaques, and afterwards acted upon mainly through his instrumentality, is equally worthy of attention and adoption, as far as it well can be, by managers of other societies of this character. Up to this very day, perhaps the most objectionable, as decidedly least satisfactory, department in the usual order of agricultural associations is that in which the implements are exhibited. With manufacturers who have a really good article, and purchasers who wish to have one, the short time and opportunity allowed for trial can scarcely ever be conducive of any lasting benefit to either. The one may almost as well spare himself that *pro formâ* trouble, by putting just as much recommendation as he pleases into his circular; and the other rest contented with reading it. Mr. Jaques, with his usual judgment and spirit, was the first both to acknowledge and counteract the effects of this growing evil. At the Bristol meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, in his capacity as president of the Richmond Association, he purchased one hundred pounds' worth of the best implements exhibited, and then and there invited their inventors and makers to a week's trial of them on a farm of his, called Broken Brea. This challenge was readily taken up, in the same straightforward tone it was given, by Messrs. Ransome, Clayburn, Crosskill, and other leading machinists; and a week passed in testing the merits of the different inventions, that every farmer may refer to with advantage, and that many a manufacturer has

to thank for establishing the name and fame of his productions. The latter gentlemen, as a body, were loud in their approval of the course determined on by Mr. Jaques; and Mr. Ransome, in returning thanks on their behalf, paid a well-merited compliment to the chairman and his project, which we cannot, from its *à-propos* character, do better than repeat: "He" (Mr. Ransome) "was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the trial of implements had been conducted. If any advantage was to be derived from the use of good and perfect implements, that advantage would be increased in a tenfold degree could they bring them forth under circumstances of fair competition. At agricultural meetings, the time appointed for carrying into operation the awarding of premiums to implements was so short, that it was in the power of any one who chose to compete for the prize, and beguile the judgment of the judges by a machine which for a short time would perform its work, but if subjected to a fair test would be found to be, on the whole, incompetent to that for which it was intended. The prize, under such circumstances, however valuable it was for puffing the exhibitor of the implement into notoriety, instead of tending to supply the farmer with good implements, often induced him to purchase such as turned out ultimately to be worthless. To such an extent had this been the case, that he (Mr. Ransome) had determined in future not to place his implements in competition with those of others; but upon hearing of the proposi-

tion of Mr. Jaques, he made up his mind to attend if it were possible for him to do so. A too exclusive dwelling upon their own perfections often blinded individuals to the merits of others; but from the present trial, both he and his competitors would reap an amount of advantage which would tend to induce them to *introduce better implements* than any of them had done before. He congratulated the society on having so respectable, enterprising, and spirited a man as Mr. Jaques at its head."

The kind of "thorough investigation" thus auspiciously opened on has, we believe, been to a certain extent since continued by the Richmondshire Agricultural Association.* In proof of this we may mention, amongst many other proposals for establishing such an annual week's work, an offer made at this same meeting to Mr. Ransome, by the chairman, Mr. Jaques, viz, that if Mr. Ransome would attend, with implements from his manufactory, any similar trials at Richmond, Mr. Jaques would, in the event of his being awarded the first prize, pay all his visitors' expenses; if only a second prize, pay half his expenses; and if entirely unsuccessful, Mr. Ransome to pay his own. The following year Mr. Ransome availed himself of this offer,

* A considerable portion of the implements purchased having afterwards been distributed as prizes, instead of, and far preferable (as we think), to "money down," the expenses of the association were but little increased by this experiment.

by sending down one of his ploughs, a pair of Suffolk horses, and a managing man ; and being thus entirely furnished with his own work and workmen, carried off the first prize in a field of twenty-seven competing ploughs. The liberality of this invitation is scarcely superior to the well defined terms on which it was given, as it naturally stands to reason that no one, without great confidence in the actual utility of what he purposed exhibiting, would avail himself of it. It is not, however, with the implements alone that Mr. Jaques has been so energetic in ascertaining their real virtues for the benefit of those with whom he is connected, he having two or three years previous to this set apart a certain portion on one of his farms for trying every new variety of wheat procurable. These samples, moreover, were *dibbled* at different distances (a mode of planting not very generally adopted with this seed), while the crop was always open for the inspection of any members of the association.

With the Farmers' Club matters are equally well managed ; in the chief features of which, right worthy of attention from its contemporaries, are a register office for farm servants, started under the patronage of the club, and the custom of bringing forward and discussing on appointed occasions all sorts of subjects in any way bearing on the interests of farming and farmers. In these home-made arguments, so calculated to draw out and encourage men even of the most moderate pretensions, it is hardly necessary to add that

the chairman and secretary take a very prominent and able part ; as indeed he does in everything connected with that science—if we may thus designate it—to which he has so continually and successfully devoted his energies. In selecting and breeding his cattle we find the same determination to have the best, a statement which the stock sales at St. Trinians (Mr. Jaques's residence previous to the decease of his father), show ample evidence in support of, that might be yet further increased by the fact of Mr. Jaques's short-horns not only almost invariably gaining premiums at the Richmondshire, Northallerton, and Yorkshire Meetings, held at Doncaster, Hull, and York, but also in their having, at the Cambridge Meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1840, taken two prizes, when their owner had sent but those two to be exhibited. These were a yearling heifer, Mermaid, and a bull called Clementi, portraits of both of which have appeared in this work. Also at the Bristol meeting, in 1842, a yearling heifer, Golden Drop, obtained the premium.

The sale of short-horns at St. Trinians, in October, 1841, and September, 1844, when Mr. Jaques, we trust for a time only, gave up breeding, we insert here as the "confirmation strong" of the talent displayed by comparatively so young a hand.

Name.	Sold for.	Purchased by.
Melody	173 gs.	Lord Hill
Mermaid	165	Mr. Booth, of Killerby





Name.	Sold for.	Purchased by.
Golden Drop	160	Lord Hill
Lady Anne	135	Mr. Parkinson, of Leyfields
Young Rachael	100	Mr. Brown
Concertina	87	Lord Hill
Dahlia	70	Mr. Harrison
Celia	67	Mr. Baker
Victoria	61	Mr. Brown
Warren Rose	61	Mr. Wetherell
Epaulet	60	Mr. Brown
Rosa	50	Mr. Hincks
Wild Rose	45	Mr. Knowles
Romp	42	Mr. Foster
Violet	40	Mr. Maynard
Etta	40	Mr. Drury
Rosebud	40	Mr. Mauleverer

HEIFER CALVES.

Hippodamia	60	Mr. Lewis
Purity	51	Mr. Lewis
Caradori	41	Mr. Barker
Catilani	23	Mr. Barker

BULLS.

Clementi	150	Mr. Rutson
Dulcimer, a bull calf	105	Mr. Booth, of Killerby
Magistrate, a year- ling bull	40	Mr. Harrison

The very excellent painting *and* portrait from which our engraving is taken occupied a distinguished place

in the exhibition of pictures at the Royal Academy the year before last, with a line or two of particulars in the catalogue that proclaim Mr. Jaques's worth far more concisely and decisively, perhaps, than all we have said in our endeavours to do justice to it. The heading runs and reads thus :—

“PORTRAIT OF R. M. JAKUES, ESQ. Painted for the Farmers' Club, Richmond, and presented by the Members to Mr. Jaques.”

This is as it should be, and in recording the very high and appropriate mark of respect the members of the Richmond Farmers' Club have paid to their Chairman, in this portrait of an Eminent British Farmer, we cannot but congratulate them, in the words of Mr. Ransome, “on having so respectable, enterprising, and spirited a man as Mr. Jaques at their head.”



H. B. Ingham

R. M. Hughes

PRESENTATION OF A PORTRAIT TO R. M. JAQUES, ESQ.

Extracted from "The Yorkshire Gazette" of February 10th, 1844; and engraved for the Proprietors of "The Farmer's Magazine," "Sporting Review," "British Farmer's Magazine," "New Sporting Magazine," and "The Sportsman," January, 1846.

On Saturday last, a beautiful and faithfully executed portrait of R. M. Jaques, Esq., of Easby Abbey, near Richmond, was presented to that gentleman, in the long room of the King's Head Inn, Richmond, kept by Mr. Jacob Hills, by the members of the Richmondshire Farmers' Club, of which Mr. Jaques is the president. The meetings of this club are held periodically; and whilst they are of a social character, yet much useful information on all subjects connected with farming operations, and tending to the prosperity of the agricultural interest, is elicited. At one period the society did not consist of more than half-a-dozen members; but since Mr. Jaques became its president, such has been the spirit displayed by that gentleman, and such has been his desire to promote the benefit of his fellow-creatures, that there are now nearly 300 members belonging to the club. Upwards of 100 members were at the dinner; and owing to the portrait being elevated at one end of

the room, every person present had a distinct view of it. We understand that it was painted by Mr. Phillips, of London ; the likeness was admirable, and in every other respect we may say that it was faultless. It was indeed worthy of the liberality of the gentlemen who had contributed towards it. An excellent and substantial dinner was provided on the occasion. R. M. Jaques, Esq., presided. After the cloth had been removed,

The CHAIRMAN proposed in succession, the healths of the Queen, the Queen Dowager, Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, which were responded to.

Capt. HARLAND then said, that the toast of the day next in interest to all of them had been deputed to him, connected as it was with the presentation of a portrait to their esteemed president, Mr. Jaques. (Applause). He could not help feeling exceedingly gratified from having been chosen by the friends of Mr. Jaques to present the portrait, on account of the very valuable services which had been rendered by him to the cause which was highly dear to them all. But he most deeply regretted that they had not made choice of some other individual, who would perhaps have presented the portrait in a more agreeable manner. They must all be aware that the world presented to the man of wealth a great many pleasures, which, however frivolous and evanescent in themselves, were of a fascinating character ; but when in a private manner he was giving his time, and talents, and wealth for the good and prosperity of

his neighbours, it proved not only beneficial to his country, but creditable to himself. (Cheers). Many then present would be aware that between thirty and forty years ago, a club was established in Richmond by a number of gentlemen attending the market. The meetings not only promoted social intercourse among them, but they were also intended for the discussion of topics highly interesting to them. Thus pleasure and profit were mingled together. He was of opinion that the interests of agriculture (whatever might be said to the contrary) ought to hold the highest place in the estimation of every man who bore the name of Englishman, and he trusted the time was far distant when agriculture would cease to be encouraged or deprived of its fair protection. (Applause). Five or six years ago, it was proposed by Mr. Lax, and immediately responded to, that an agricultural society should be established in Richmond. The suggestion was acted upon—the society was formed—it made rapid progress, and its success had been very great. With the exception of the great national societies, he should say that the Richmondshire Agricultural Association was second to none in the kingdom ; nor was it second to them except as to numbers, because the quality of the stock which had been exhibited at the shows was of first-rate description, and equal, if not superior, to any other in the country. Members of that association successfully competed against cattle brought from every part of the country ; and his worthy friend on his left (he meant Mr. Booth) had not

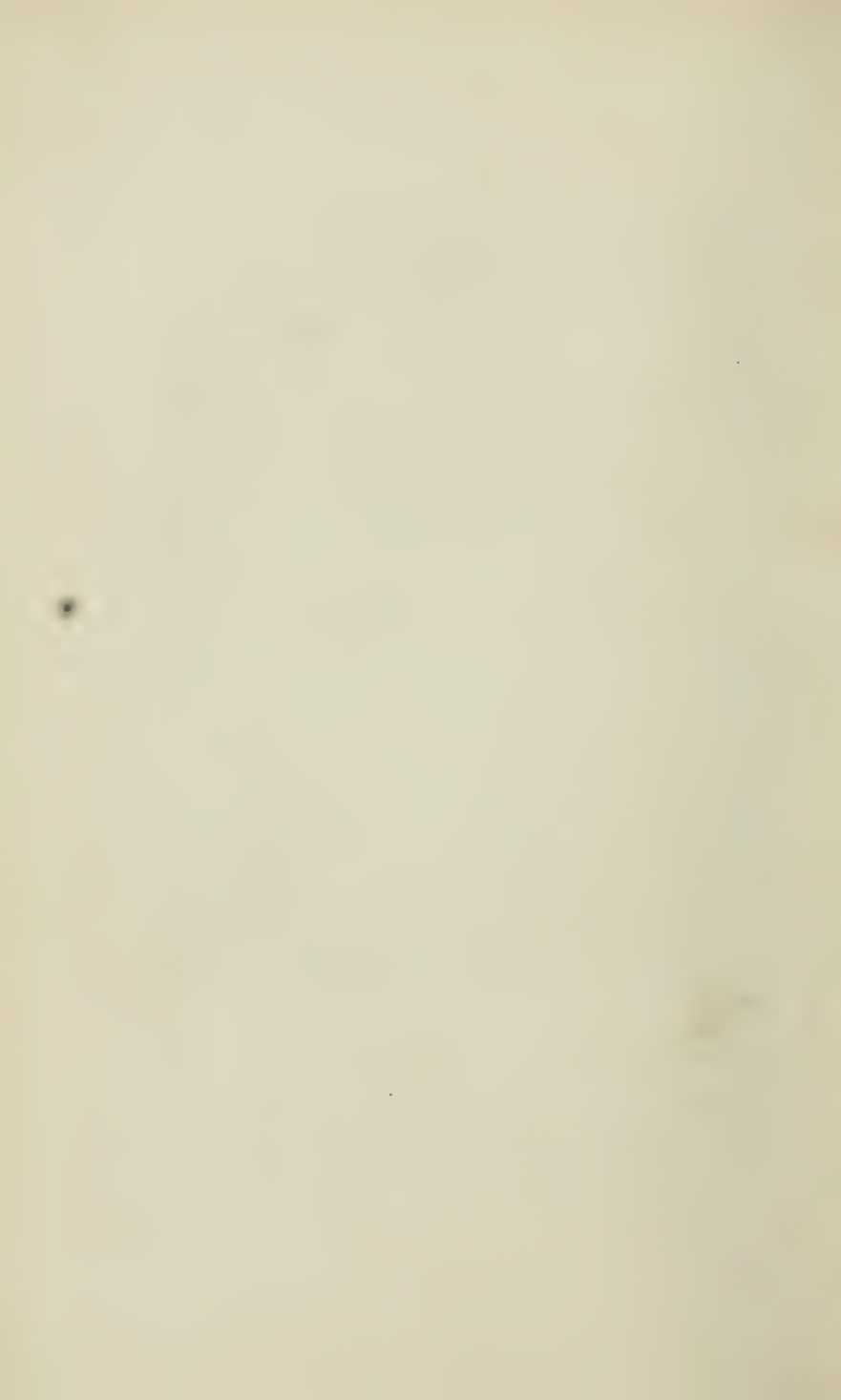
only obtained prizes for his stock, but he also had had the credit of exhibiting a cow which was confessedly the finest animal in the kingdom. (Applause.) This was creditable, in the very highest degree, to the Richmondshire Society ; and to no one had the society been more highly indebted than to Mr. Jaques. (Cheers.) Under his presidency it had attained its present pre-eminence. A show and trial of useful agricultural implements took place at Broken Brea last year, and it was through his (Mr. Jaques's) instrumentality and liberality that they were so extensively and fairly tested. (Loud applause.) That he conceived to be a matter of much greater importance than the bare exhibition of stock. The improvement of the breed of cattle beyond a certain point could not proceed ; but who should set limits to mechanical invention and power ? In his opinion these were illimitable, interminable, and inexhaustible. He doubted not that with a better acquaintance with soils and manures the earth would be made to yield her increase to an extent which was never thought of before by the most sanguine. This naturally brought to his mind another society over which Mr. Jaques presided, and the number of persons who attended that day sufficiently attested the success of his exertions—he meant the Farmers' Club. If the objects of that club were fairly carried out, they must necessarily lead to the most beneficial results. Amidst discussion, the more practical man would be taught to think what he never perhaps thought before, aye, and on subjects too of which he never before dreamt.

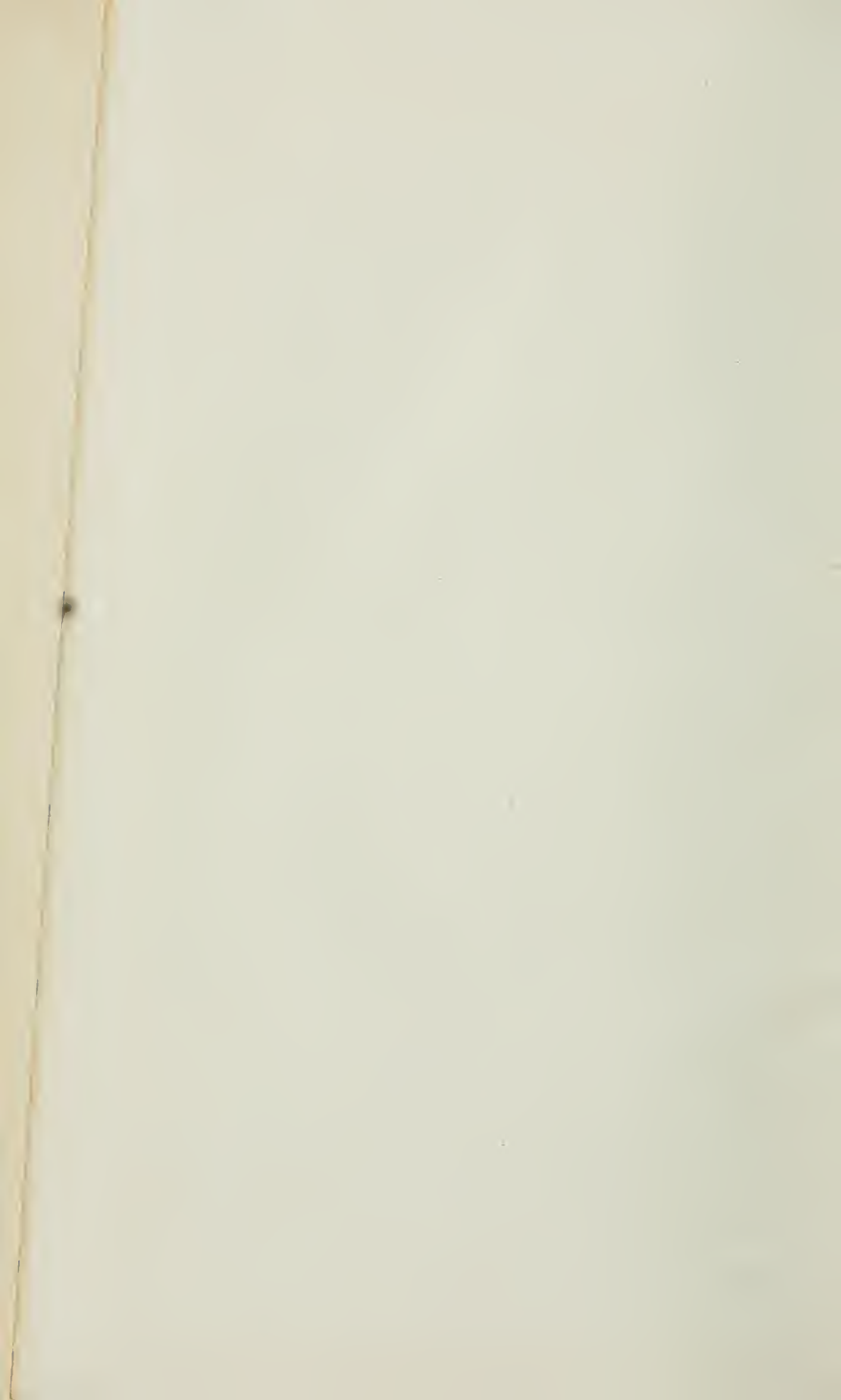
It would teach him to seek for information from people who perhaps he before lightly esteemed, and from quarters which he before utterly despised. He would trace effects to their natural causes, and confer a great benefit upon society at large. (Applause). Justly estimating the value of Mr. Jaques's services in these matters, they were anxious to present to him some testimonial of respect by which his contemporaries, as well as his posterity, may be led to follow his good example. (Cheers). It was to that end that they solicited Mr. Jaques to sit for that portrait which was now before them, and which, in their name, he respectfully requested him to accept. (Applause). He expressed the hope that uninterrupted health and perfect happiness might long attend their worthy president, and might he long live to enjoy the company of those among whom he was then assembled. (Cheers.) It now only remained for them to drink the health of Mr. Jaques in a bumper, with all the honours. (Three times three cheers, and one cheer more).

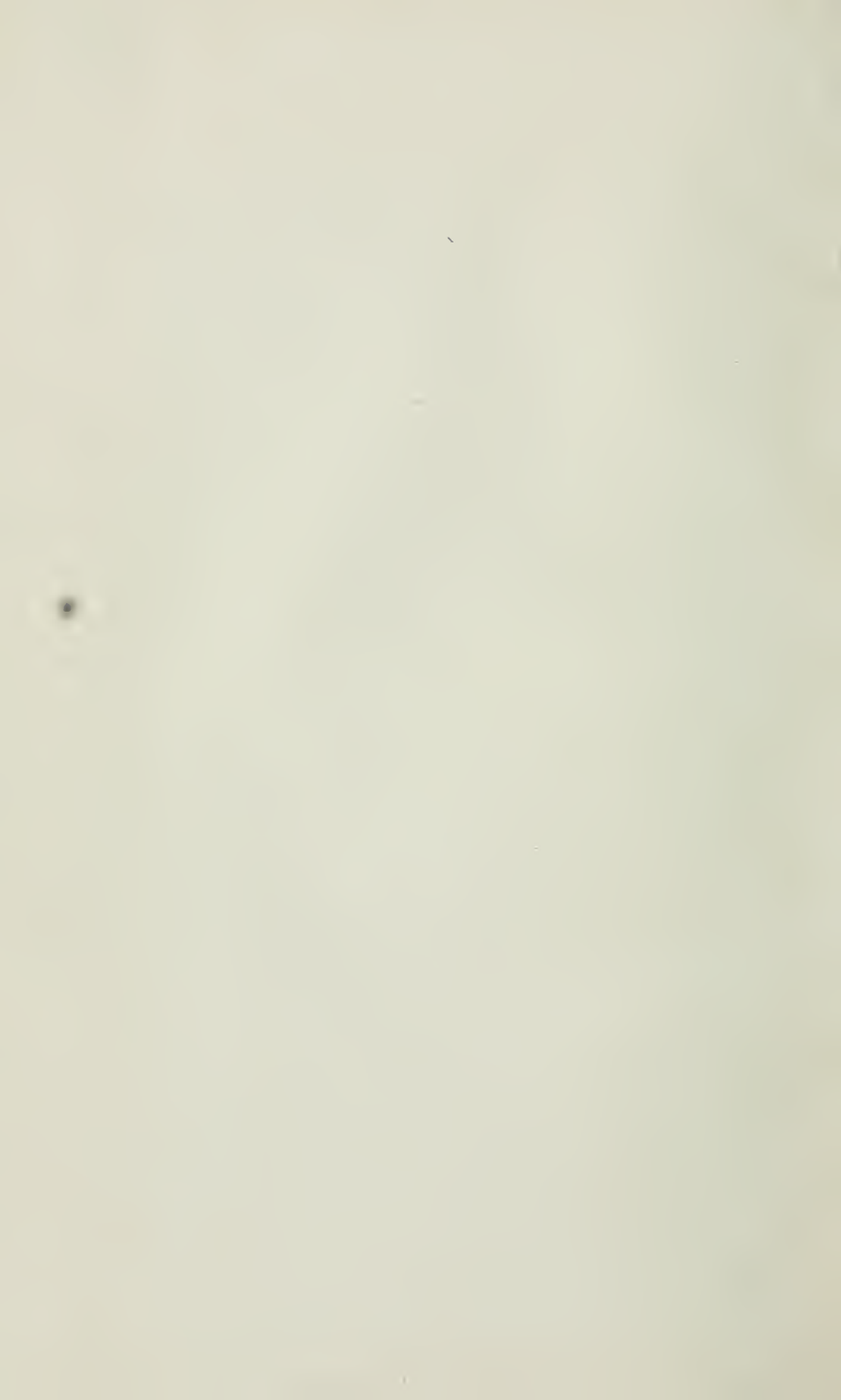
R. M. JAQUES, Esq., then rose, and after the plaudits with which he was greeted had subsided, he said he rose with very considerable embarrassment to return thanks for the very kind complimentary speech of his worthy friend, Capt. Harland, and to offer his grateful and heartfelt acknowledgment for the present which he had received at their hands. (Applause.) He felt it a difficult task to speak as he ought on the present occasion; and if he failed—as fail he must—in finding words sufficiently warm to express those feelings with which

his heart was then beating, he hoped they would attribute it solely to a want of words to picture the language of the heart. (Applause). He would make a few remarks on one subject which was very closely connected with the object then before them, and he would trace the present he had now received to the day on which he was first asked to become the president of the Richmondshire Agricultural Association. (Applause). It was then a child of very recent birth—an infant in its swaddling clothes—and of so delicate a constitution as likely to die of a natural death. He, however, did not think the case a hopeless one; and in taking upon himself the situation of the president, he thought he was acting the part of a good physician—(applause)—and he would ask them if he had not been successful. In becoming the president of that society, and since then of another society, at one of whose meetings they were then assembled, of course his attention was directed to those objects which these societies had in view. He thought he might appeal to the members of the society for the success which had attended his efforts; and although the consciousness of doing his duty would have been to him an ample recompence, still he must consider himself an egotist, and fond of the good opinion of his neighbours. (Applause). He should have great pleasure in handing down the portrait to his posterity, as an incentive to his children to exert their talents and to spend their time in exerting any influence they might possess in furthering objects promotive of the

interests of their fellow creatures. (Cheers.) He had an exquisite pleasure in fancying that some day some person might make the posthumous inquiry of "Who was he?" and some one to tell the story of that day. (Applause). He would not trespass further on their time, but he would make two or three remarks suggested by his own anxiety for the success of the two societies, viz., the Richmondshire Farmers' Club, and the Richmondshire Agricultural Association. And he would impress upon the members of the committee and upon the members at large, in order to promote the success of these societies, the necessity of their individual and collective exertions every day and every hour. He was shortly about to leave them, but he trusted his absence would only be temporary. He should, however, hold them somewhat responsible for the good management of these societies in the mean time; and he hoped that on his return he should see them advancing to a mighty maturity. (Applause). He sincerely thanked them for the handsome present which had been placed in his hands; and, wishing that prosperity and happiness might attend them and theirs, he begged to drink their healths, individually and collectively, in a bumper. (Cheers.)





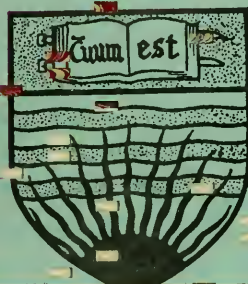


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